

Oregon School and Childcare Immunization Requirements: Frequently Asked Questions for Schools and Children's Facilities

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Are all schools and childcare programs required to track shots?

Yes, all schools and children's facilities in Oregon are required to track shots. Shots are required for attendance at all elementary, middle and high schools in Oregon, whether public, private, charter or alternative schools. Shots are also required for attendance at all children's facilities, including preschool, Head Start, and certified childcare programs. Parents should provide a completed Certificate of Immunization Status for each child. Schools and children's facilities can also print a Certificate of Immunization Status form with immunization dates from the ALERT Immunization Information System if the dates are in ALERT. For more information, go to www.alertiis.org.

Which schools and children's facilities have to submit reports?

All schools, certified childcares, preschools, and Head Start programs are required by law to complete an annual immunization report for their county health department. Schools include all elementary, middle and high schools in Oregon, whether public, private, charter or alternative schools. The report is called a Primary Review Summary, and it is usually due the second full week in January. A follow-up report is due in late February or early March. Civil penalties may be issued for sites that fail to submit the Primary Review Summary on time.

What shots are required for school and childcare attendance in Oregon?

Oregon requires immunization against eleven vaccine-preventable diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Polio
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A
- Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type B) – only for children under 5 years of age

What other shots are recommended?

There are additional vaccines that children are not required to have to stay in school or childcare, however experts agree that children should have them for optimal protection. These immunizations may be added to the school/facility requirements in the future. These vaccines include:

- Pneumococcal
- Influenza
- Rotavirus
- Meningococcal
- HPV (human papillomavirus)

Recommended ages and schedules vary by vaccine. Please see your health care provider for additional information.

Why are shots required?

Shots provide protection against contracting serious diseases to the person who receives them. Shots also provide protection to classmates and teachers by reducing the number of people vulnerable to these diseases. When enough people are vaccinated, these diseases tend to stop circulating. Children are particularly vulnerable in a school or childcare setting.

Where can I get more Certificate of Immunization Status forms?

Contact your county health department for additional copies. Some Education Service Districts also distribute these forms. They will provide them to you at no charge. If you have difficulties getting the forms you need, please call 971-673-0300. The form is also available online at:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Documents/SchCISform.pdf>

with instructions in English at:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Documents/SchCISInsEng.pdf>

and instructions in Spanish at:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Documents/SchCISInsSp.pdf>

If a child has had Varicella (chickenpox) do they need the shot?

No. If a child has had varicella disease, a parent may check “yes” in the history of disease box in the varicella section of the Certificate of Immunization Status. An estimated month and year is also helpful, but is not required.

Does Oregon allow exemptions?

Yes, Oregon allows two kinds of exemptions, medical and nonmedical. A medical exemption is signed by a physician or the county health department. A nonmedical exemption is signed by a parent or guardian with an attached Vaccine Education Certificate verifying completion of education about immunizations, either from a health care practitioner or the online vaccine education module. For more information about nonmedical exemptions, go to www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption.

When is Exclusion Day?

Statewide Exclusion Day is always the third Wednesday in February.

Do I really have to exclude?

Yes. Oregon Revised Statute 433.267 clearly requires the administrator of schools and facilities to exclude children who are not in compliance with immunization requirements. Administrators are only allowed to let children come back when the child is in compliance with the exclusion order issued by the county health department.