



2022-23 Immunization Exclusion Frequently Asked Questions

What is the problem that needs to be solved?

To be into compliance with Washington State immunization laws, RCW 28A.210, Seattle Public Schools (SPS) needs updated immunization documentation on 2,000 students before February 8, 2023. Students with incomplete or out-of-compliance immunization documentation face exclusion from school beginning on February 9, 2023.

How do I know who is on the exclusion list?

Administrators will receive an updated immunization exclusion list on January 12, from Health Services.

What criteria were used to place a student on the exclusion list?

Students who were enrolled on December 5, 2022, are eligible for exclusion. These students will receive an exclusion letter from Health Services on January 13. Students who enrolled after December 5, 2022, and are out of compliance are not on the current exclusion list; however, they need to get their immunization records in order. Students who are 18 years old or older, students who are McKinney-Vento eligible, and students in full-time Running Start will not be excluded.

What proof is needed to get back into school?

Students may attend once the immunization record is in order or they can show proof that they have an upcoming appointment to get vaccinated. If a student brings in a paper record, the nurse or office staff may compare the evidence of vaccination, evidence of laboratory immunity or a Certificate of Exemption form signed by family and health care provider against the student's immunization data sheet printed by the school nurse. If a parent states by phone or email that the student is vaccinated, the school nurse may check this against the data entered in the Washington Immunization Information System.

How does the absence get recorded?

Absences will be marked as "Unexcused" until the student comes into compliance. Once the vaccination is completed or proof of immunization is otherwise provided as required by law, the school may retroactively change the unexcused absences to "Excused."

What is the goal?

- Complying with State law and making school learning environments safe and healthy.
- Promoting a rapid and efficient response to an outbreak of a serious communicable disease, such as measles, because we have accurate and current data.
- Minimizing lost instruction time in the event of a measles outbreak (which may result in up to 30 days out of school time).
- Bringing immunization compliance rates to above 95% at all 108 sites by end of the school year.



What can School Leaders do?

- Send out a reminder in PTSA newsletter, use school reader boards or other communication techniques. *“Reminder: Please make sure that your child meets immunization requirements to avoid school exclusion on February 9, 2023. All families may get vaccinations at any pharmacy, health clinic or at any of the 29 school-based health centers.*
https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/health_services/immunizations.
- When speaking to families, emphasize positive messages that we all want a safe and healthy learning environment and that 90% or more of the families at your school site are already in compliance with the law.
- Meet with the school nurse, attendance secretary and other team members to discuss exclusion procedure for February 9. Possibilities vary for each school. High School staff might prepare passes on Wednesday, send a pass to first or second period on Thursday, have student come to attendance office, meet school staff, contact families, go home, or get signed up for vaccination(s) at School-Based Health Center.
- SPS students may access immunizations at any of the 29 School-Based Health Centers or at four free immunization clinics sponsored by SPS. Students under 18 must have a family member present.
 - ✓ Interagency Columbia Annex: January 7 and 14, 2023, 9:00 am-3:00 pm
 - ✓ Nathan Hale High School: January 7, 2023, 9:00am -3:00 pm
 - ✓ Wing Luke Elementary: February 1, 2023, 1:30 pm-5:00 pm
- Have office staff, nurse or bilingual staff contact families Monday or Tuesday by phone to remind about the deadline February 9, 2023.

Links

SPS Communications Office information for families:

https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/student_vaccination_requirements

SPS Health Services: https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/health_services/immunizations

School-Based Health Centers: <https://www.seattle.gov/education/about-us/about-the-levy/health/school-based-health-centers>

For more information:

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