

## **Oregon School and Childcare Immunization Requirements: Frequently Asked Questions for Health Care Practitioners**

- What shots are required for school and childcare attendance in Oregon?
- What other shots are recommended?
- Is the 2-dose hepatitis B series allowed for school attendance?
- Is the 3-dose Hib series allowed for child care attendance?
- If MMR, varicella or hepatitis A vaccine was given before the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, can I excuse the child from repeating the dose?
- If a child had varicella (chickenpox) disease, does he/she need the shot?
- Does Oregon allow exemptions?
- When is Exclusion Day?
- Are children really excluded?

### **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
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- 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 are not required for school or childcare attendance. However, children should receive these vaccines for protection against the diseases that these vaccines prevent. These immunizations may be added to school/facility requirements in the future. Recommended vaccines include:

- Pneumococcal
- Influenza
- Rotavirus

- Meningococcal
- HPV (human papillomavirus)

Recommended ages and schedules vary by vaccine. Please see the CDC website for additional information regarding Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations and the harmonized ACIP, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) schedule at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm>

### **Is the 2-dose hepatitis B series allowed for school attendance?**

Yes, as long as the first dose of hepatitis B is given at or after eleven years of age and the second dose is given at least four months after the first dose, the student will have met the requirements. However, more specific criteria related to dosage size are listed in the package insert should be followed to ensure the student is adequately protected. Please refer to that document for clinical guidance.

### **Is the 3-dose Hib series allowed for childcare attendance?**

Yes, as long as the third dose was given at or after age twelve months of age, the child will have met the requirements. However, more specific criteria are listed in the package insert and should be followed to ensure the child is adequately protected. Please refer to that document for clinical guidance.

### **If MMR, varicella or hepatitis A vaccine was given before the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, can I excuse the child from repeating the dose?**

No, unless the dose was received 4 or fewer days before the first birthday. For school and childcare attendance purposes, a dose given in the same month as the first birthday is also acceptable. If the child received a dose of MMR, varicella, or hepatitis A vaccine too early, there are two options: 1) repeat the inappropriate dose; or 2) provide lab results showing a positive titer. The parent may sign a nonmedical exemption if they are unwilling to accept the above options.

### **If a child had varicella (chickenpox) disease, does he/she need the shot?**

No. If a child had varicella disease, a parent may check the history of disease box in the varicella section of the Certificate of Immunization Status. An estimated date is also helpful, but not required.

### **Does Oregon allow exemptions?**

Yes, Oregon allows two kinds of exemptions: nonmedical and medical.

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 and the health care practitioner's role, go to [www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption](http://www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption).

A medical exemption or immunity documentation must be signed by a physician and approved by the local health department. A medical exemption requires: child's name, birth date, medical condition contraindicating vaccination, vaccine or vaccines contraindicated, approximate time until condition resolves (if applicable), physician's signature, date signed, and physician's contact information including phone number. Immunity documentation requires: child's name, birth date, diagnosis or lab report, physician's signature, and date signed.

### **When is Exclusion Day?**

Statewide Exclusion Day is the third Wednesday in February. Some local jurisdictions have additional exclusion days.

### **Are children really excluded?**

Yes. Oregon Revised Statute 433.267 requires administrators 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 they are in compliance with the rules and provide the necessary dates of the required vaccines or a signed exemption. In February 2013, over 4,000 children were excluded.