



6/5/2019

*\* NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

## **Public and Private Schools and Licensed Child Care Facilities**

### **New Immunization Law Impacting Effective July 28, 2019**

#### **Action Requested:**

1. Notify parents of children with personal or philosophical exemptions for MMR vaccine they are required to provide dates of MMR vaccination by the time the school year starts in fall of 2019.
2. Exclude from school attendance, per state law, any student not in compliance with immunization requirements, until they can show satisfactory progress towards immunization requirements.
3. Ensure Child Care staff are immunized with MMR
4. Ensure all students and staff are up to date on immunizations
5. Take every opportunity to educate parents about immunizations

#### **Background:**

In May 2019, Governor Inslee signed House Bill 1638, which removes the personal and philosophical option to exempt children from the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine required for school and child care attendance. The new law will take effect on July 28, 2019. We are sending you this CD Update to help you implement necessary changes for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

#### **Who Is Affected?**

Affects only those students who have a personal or philosophical exemption to the MMR vaccine. Students with medical or religious exemptions are not affected by the new law.

#### **What Is the Requirement?**

One dose of MMR is required for all children age 1 year and older in child care or preschool. Two doses of MMR vaccine are required for all students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. A minimum of 28 days must separate the two doses of MMR vaccine, which means someone needing both MMR doses will need one dose given as soon as possible, followed by another appointment scheduled a month from the first MMR dose. Children catching up with the MMR immunization schedule are considered to be in conditional status until 30 days after the second dose of the MMR vaccine comes due.

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION  
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
412 LILLY RD NE  
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132  
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470 INFORMATION: (360) 867-2533  
Rachel Wood, MD, MPH, Health Officer



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## Resources:

WA DOH Sample Parent Letter

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization/ExemptionLawChange/>

WA DOH - Changes to the State Law: <http://lawfilesexet.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/1638.SL.pdf>

DOH Exemption Law Change with Frequently Asked Questions -

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization/ExemptionLawChange/ExemptionLawFAQs>

## THANK YOU FOR REPORTING!

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting Non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions	360-867-2500 ask staff to locate Communicable Disease staff
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 911 and ask staff to locate the Health Officer.  If calling from outside Thurston County, call 360-704-2740 and ask staff to locate the Health Officer.
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344