

Frequently Asked Questions for Children's Facilities: Sharing Immunization and Exemption Rates

What do I need to share?

Child care facilities, preschools and Head Start programs must share their immunization and exemption rates for each required vaccine.

Where do I have to share this information?

Immunization and exemption rates must be shared in three ways:

1. On your program's website. If you don't have a website, you can post the information on a social media page for your site, like Facebook, if you have this.
2. In the main office, or other central location at your site.
3. With the parents of children enrolled at your site in electronic or paper format, such as an email, newsletter, or mailed copy.

When do I need to share this information?

Immunization rates must be shared twice a year:

- Within 30 days of the beginning of the school year
- Within 30 days after Exclusion Day, which is always the third Wednesday in February

I have a very small program, do I still need to share the rates?

Facilities with fewer than 10 children younger than school age are not required to share immunization or exemption rates for these children. Sharing immunization rates for programs with small numbers of children risks loss of confidentiality. These programs are therefore exempt from the requirement to share immunization rates; however, these programs must still complete the Immunization Primary Review Summary reports and submit these forms to the local health department.

How can I calculate my facility's immunization rates?

You can calculate immunization and exemption rates from the Primary Review Summary report that you submit annually to your local health department. Use Section E of the Primary Review Summary to calculate the rates. If you have a kindergarten, use Section H to calculate the rates for these students. Use the following formula to calculate immunization rate for each vaccine: *number of children complete for the vaccine divided by the number of children required to have the vaccine*. Use this formula to calculate the exemption rate for each vaccine: *number of children with a nonmedical exemption to the vaccine divided by the number of children required to have the vaccine*.

Is there a template or format I can use to calculate and share the data?

See the instructions on the back of the cover letter with this mailing to find the online template for making a graph that you can post on your website and share with parents. If you

use an electronic tracking and reporting system, there should soon be available a reporting tool that will allow preschool programs to print an immunization and exemption rate report.

Can I just post a link to the information if it is available through another source?

No, the actual data must be included in any materials provided to parents.

What level of immunization is needed to protect the facility?

We aim for at least 95% of children to be immunized for community protection, though the percentage varies by disease. When 95% of children are vaccinated in a school or child care, this significantly reduces the chance of spreading the disease among vulnerable individuals.

Why are some children “not counted”?

Children may be enrolled at two different sites. The main site is responsible for reporting on the status of the child, the secondary site would include the child in the number enrolled and also in the number not to be counted. An example is a child attending kindergarten at a public school and then going to child care after school. The school includes the child in their adjusted enrollment but the child care does not include them.

Why aren't children 18 months or younger included?

Until 18 months of age, children are still in process of receiving vaccines every few months. They are up-to-date but not fully protected with the required number of doses against all of the vaccine-preventable diseases. Therefore, they are not included in calculating the immunization rates.

What if I don't have current rates?

It is acceptable to share immunization and exemption rates from the previous school year. For example, to comply with the requirement at the beginning of the school year, a site could share immunization rates from the previous school year. The site could then update the immunization rates after the February Exclusion Day with current numbers.

I understand that I also need to share local area immunization rates. Who provides this information?

Local county health authorities will send you the county-level immunization rates in May each year. The numbers will be the average immunization rate by vaccine for children in the county. In May, these rates will be posted here:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Pages/SchResources.aspx>

Do you have a question? Email oregon.imm@state.or.us