



Online Learning and School Immunizations

8/19/2021

Q: What are the immunization requirements for schools with online learning?

All schools are required to comply with the immunization laws and rules including public schools, private schools, charter schools, alternative education programs and any program that provides educational instruction designed to lead to a high school diploma or transfer into a regular high school program.

Schools are not required to report on students who participate fewer than five in-person activities per school year. In-person activities include, but are not limited to, classes, meeting with an instructor in a school building, testing, sports, music, tutoring, and field trips.

Q: What are the requirements if the school will only have online learning and no in-person activities this school year?

If the school intends to have students exclusively online for the full school year and offer no in-person activities, then these students can be “not counted” when the school submits its immunization report. However, schools are encouraged to continue to collect immunization records for these students, in preparation for in-person learning in the future.

Q: What if some schools shift to offering only online classes, because of a COVID-19 outbreak. How do these schools manage immunization reporting?

Schools having or intending to have in-person education or activities at any time during the school year need to collect immunization records and submit immunization reports in the winter. These actions help schools to transition safely and quickly to and from in-person learning.

Schools that have some but not all students attending in-person activities have two options for managing immunization reporting requirements.

Option 1: The school collects immunization records and report on all students. Some schools find it to be simpler to report on all students, rather than tracking which individual students participate in in-person activities. This option can be easier for schools with students moving back and forth between in-person and online education.

Option 2: The school reports only on students who participate in in-person activities five or more times in a school year. The school reports the students who participate in in-person activities fewer than five times a year in the “not counted” category of the Primary Review Summary reports. This requires the school to track how many times each student participates in in-person activities or if students intend to participate in future in-person activities. The school still collects immunization records for all students in case they do participate in five or more in-person activities per year.

Q: How is Exclusion Day enforced for online students?

There are two options for how to enforce exclusion. Option one is to exclude students from online and in-person activities. Option two is to exclude students from participating in in-person activities. It is up to each school to decide which option will be used this year.

Questions? Please email oregon.imm@state.or.us.