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# Frequently Asked Questions for Schools: Sharing Immunization and Exemption Rates

## What do schools need to share?

Schools must share their immunization and exemption rates for each vaccine required for school attendance.

## Where do I have to share this information?

Immunization and exemption rates must be shared in three ways:

1. On your school website. If you don't have a school website, you can post the information on a social media page for your school, like Facebook, if you have one.
2. In the main office.
3. With the parents of students enrolled at your school 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 school, do I still need to share the rates?

Schools with fewer than 10 students in grades K-12 are not required to share immunization or exemption rates for these students. Schools 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 schools with small numbers of students risk loss of confidentiality. These sites are therefore exempt from the requirement to share immunization rates; however, these sites must still complete the Immunization Primary Review Summary reports and submit these forms to the local health department.

## How can I calculate my school'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 H of the Primary Review Summary to calculate the rates for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Use Section E of the Primary Review Summary to calculate the rates for preschool children. Use the following formula to calculate the immunization rate for each vaccine: *number of children complete for the vaccine divided by the number of students 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 students required to have the vaccine*.

## **Is there a template or format I can use to calculate and share this information?**

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. In addition, many student information systems (SIS) will soon have a reporting tool that will allow schools to print an immunization and exemption rate report.

## **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 school could share immunization rates from the previous school year. The school could then update the immunization rates after the February Exclusion Day with current numbers.

## **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 school population?**

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.

## **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 come from all of the schools in the county to provide an average immunization rate by vaccine. In May, these rates will be posted here:

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

## **How is the Hepatitis A immunization rate calculated?**

The rate is calculated by dividing the number of children complete with two doses of Hepatitis A in the grades required to have Hepatitis A vaccine by the total number of children in these grades. The rate is different than from other vaccines because the Hepatitis A vaccine requirement is being phased in one grade at a time. In school year 2015-2016, students in K – 7<sup>th</sup> grade are required to receive this vaccine. One additional grade is required to have Hepatitis A vaccine each school year.

## **Do you have a question? Email [oregon.imm@state.or.us](mailto:oregon.imm@state.or.us)**

