



Umatilla County Public Health

NEWS RELEASE

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February 15 is School Exclusion Day in Oregon

Get immunizations up-to-date before School Exclusion Day February 15

Make sure your child is fully protected

February 15 is School Exclusion Day in Oregon, and UCo Health wants to remind parents to check their children's immunization records to ensure they are up to date so their child won't miss school or child care. If school and child care vaccination records are not up-to-date, their child will be sent home from school on Exclusion Day and will not be able to attend school or child care until their records show the needed immunizations. If parents are unsure if their children are up to date UCo health staff are ready and available to help review their records and ensure that all children in the county are fully and correctly vaccinated.

Under state law, all children in public and private schools, preschools, Head Start and certified child care facilities must have up-to-date documentation on their immunizations, or have an exemption.

"Immunization is the very best way to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases such as whooping cough and measles," said Jim Setzer, Director of Umatilla County Public Health. "It keeps our schools and our entire community safe and healthy. Necessary immunizations are readily available for all children who need them through private health care providers and the County Health Department. No one will be turned away from having their child protected due to the inability to pay"

Information for parents about updated vaccine requirements:

- The hepatitis A vaccine, which protects against a communicable viral infection, is a two-dose series required for children 18 months and older in child care, preschool and kindergarten through eighth grade.
- Parents of children with religious exemptions on file, signed before March 2014, will need to submit updated documentation. If the child has received the vaccines, the parent needs to turn in the immunization dates to the school. If the parent wants a nonmedical exemption, the parent needs to turn in a Vaccine Education Certificate showing that they've received education about vaccines, either from a health care practitioner or from the online vaccine education module. The parent also needs to sign a new Certificate of Immunization Status. More information about exemptions can be found at the division's vaccine exemption website at www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption.

Letters to parents notifying them of their child's potential exclusion will be mailed on Feb. 1.

Parents seeking immunizations for their children should contact their health care provider or local health department, or call 211Info—just dial 211. No one can be turned away from a local health department because of the inability to pay for required vaccines. Pharmacists can also immunize children, 7 years of age and older.

Parents should contact their neighborhood pharmacy for details. The Health Department is organizing a special “exemptions vaccination clinic” on Saturday 11 Feb. from 9:00 – 2:00 at its Hermiston Clinic located at 435 East Newport St, Suite B, Hermiston to make it easy for parents to make sure their children are fully vaccinated.

Additional information on school immunizations can be found at the Immunization Program website at www.healthoregon.org/imm. Follow the Oregon Immunization Program on [Facebook](#).

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