



## Frequently Asked Questions About Conditional Immunization Status

Effective August 1, 2020 - For the 2020-2021 School Year and Beyond

**Q: What does conditional status mean?**

**A:** On or before the first day of school or child care attendance parents/guardians are required to provide proof of either, full immunization, a certificate of exemption, or the initiation of and compliance with a schedule of immunization for their child, RCW [28A.210.080](#). Children can enter and stay in school or child care in conditional status if they are catching up on vaccines required to document immunity for school or child care entry. Vaccine series doses are spread out among minimum intervals, so some children may have to wait a period of time before finishing their vaccinations. Conditional status allows them to attend school or child care while waiting for their next vaccine dose according to the [national immunization catch-up schedule](#) plus another 30 calendar days' time to turn in documentation of vaccination. If a student is catching up on multiple vaccines, conditional status continues in a similar manner until all of the required vaccines are complete.

**Q: What conditions must be met for a child to attend school or child care in conditional status?**

**A:** To attend school or child care in Conditional Status the following conditions must be met ([WAC 246-105-050](#)):

- The parent/guardian must sign the Conditional Status statement on the Certificate of Immunization Status form. The parent acknowledges their child is attending school or child care in conditional status with the associated timelines.
- Children must be up to date on their immunizations, having received all of the vaccine doses they are eligible to receive before they can start school or child care.
- When the next catch-up vaccine dose comes due, the parent or guardian must turn in documentation within 30 days of the vaccination due date. Valid documentation includes medical records showing vaccination, evidence of immunity to the disease in question, or a completed Certificate of Exemption (COE) form.

**Q: What does "any the vaccine doses they are eligible to receive" mean?**

**A:** Children are due for different vaccines depending on their age. "Any doses the child is eligible to receive" means all of the required vaccine doses the child is old enough to receive and the time interval from the previous dose of that vaccine has been met according to the [national immunization catch-up schedule](#).

For example:

- A child entering kindergarten has had no vaccines:
  - The child must get one dose of each of the required vaccines (Hepatitis B, DTaP, IPV, MMR and Varicella) before starting school. They are then in conditional status until the next vaccine is due plus 30 calendar days to turn in documentation that they have gotten the vaccine. When they get the vaccine conditional status continues as described until all of the vaccine series are complete.

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- A child entering kindergarten has had all vaccines except MMR dose 2. MMR dose one was administered 1 week before the start of school:
  - The child can start school in conditional status for 3 weeks (waiting for MMR dose 2 minimum valid date) plus an additional 30 calendar days in which to get the dose and turn in documentation to the school.
- A child entering kindergarten has all of the early childhood vaccines but is missing their age 4 - 6yr vaccines required for kindergarten entry:
  - The child must get the missing DTaP, IPV, MMR and varicella before starting school.
- A student entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade has not had their required Tdap booster:
  - The student must get the Tdap vaccine before starting school.

**Q: What happens if documentation is not turned in within the 30 day time period?**

**A:** If the 30 day conditional period expires and documentation has not been given to the school or child care, then the student must be excluded from further attendance, per RCW [28A.210.120](#). Valid documentation includes medical records showing vaccination, evidence of immunity to the disease in question, or a completed certificate of exemption (COE) form.

**Q: What has changed regarding conditional status?**

**A:** In the past, conditional status was interpreted to mean children had 30 days from the first day of attendance to provide the school or child care with the required immunization documentation. The revised rule language clarifies that documentation is required on or before the first day of attendance as stated in RCW [28A.210.080](#).

**Q: When does a child enter conditional status and for how long?**

**A:** The most common scenario occurs when a child arrives on their first day of school missing required immunizations. The child must get any of the doses they are eligible to receive before starting school. If additional doses are needed to complete the vaccine series then they can start school on the condition that they continue to get the remaining doses based on the [national immunization catch-up schedule](#). They must get remaining doses within 30 calendar days following the minimum valid date of the next dose needed. A child also enters conditional status when a temporary medical exemption expires. In this case, the child has 30 calendar days from the date the medical exemption expired to get the missing immunization(s) or another exemption.

**Q: Who grants conditional status?**

**A:** The school or child care staff determine if the conditions for conditional status have been met.

**Q: Does conditional status only apply to students attending a new school or district?**

**A:** No, conditional status applies to any child without an exemption attending school or child care who is missing immunizations and waiting for the minimum valid date of the next vaccine dose needed.



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**Q: How do the new rules apply to children in military families?**

**A:** Children of active-duty military parents or guardians must turn in documentation of immunization status on or before the first day of attendance. If they need additional vaccine doses to meet state requirements, they have 30 days from enrollment to do so.

**Q: Does conditional status apply to children in child care?**

**A:** Licensed child day care centers must follow the immunization requirement laws and rules. This includes all public and private child cares licensed by [the Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#) to provide early childhood education and early learning services for a group of children for periods of less than twenty-four hours.

**Q: How are homeless students under the McKinney Vento Act impacted by these rules?**

**A:** Students considered homeless according to the [McKinney-Vento Act](#) (which may include migratory and refugee children) must be allowed to enroll, attend classes, and participate fully. These students cannot be excluded for being out of compliance with immunization requirements. The homeless liaison should continue to help homeless students get immunizations, their immunization records, or an exemption. For more information see the [Immunization Manual for Schools, Preschools, and Child Care Facilities](#).

**Q: How do the rules apply to foster children?**

**A:** Foster children must be allowed to enroll in school, even if they are missing paperwork, per the Every Student Succeeds Act. Every child/youth in out-of-home placement should receive an EPSDT/Well-Child examination, which includes immunizations if needed, within 30 days of entering any foster or relative placement. For more information see the [Immunization Manual for Schools, Preschools, and Child Care Facilities](#).

**Q: How do the new rules apply to international students?**

**A:** International students must comply with immunization requirements. The host parent may sign the Certificate of Immunization Status if needed.

**Q: What is the WA Administrative Code (WAC) that talks about conditional status?**

**A:** It is: [WAC 246-105-020](#), [WAC 246-105-050](#) and [WAC 246-105-060](#).

**Q: Is there a requirement to make more than one parent contact by letter or phone to let them know their child is in conditional status, or just the notice of exclusion required in RCW [28A.210.120](#)?**

**A:** No additional requirements exist beyond the RCW and WAC procedures for excluding students. Even though not specified in the law, it is best practice to send a written notice to parents about the student's conditional status.

**Q: Does DOH have sample letters for students in conditional status or who need to be excluded?**

**A:** Yes, DOH has sample letters. You can access them in the [School K-12 Resources and Sample Letters](#) section at the School and Child Care Immunization website: [www.doh.wa.gov/SCCI](http://www.doh.wa.gov/SCCI)