

MMR Vaccine Exemption Law Change 2019

In 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill that **removes the personal and philosophical option to exempt children from the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine** required for school and child care entry. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee on May 10, 2019.

We know there is great interest in the effects of this law. The department is working on interpreting the new law. Once we know the scope of the final law, we will begin the form change process. At that point we will communicate with interested groups to share next steps.

This page contains quick information and resources on this change to school and child care immunization requirements. Find more detailed information in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#). As more information becomes available, we will share it.

As we prepare for the new law to take effect, we'll continue our work in helping parents and the public understand the safety record of vaccines and the critical role they have in saving lives.

Law Change Quick Facts

- The new law will take effect July 28, 2019 and applies to public and private schools.
- The law also requires employees and volunteers at child care centers to provide immunization records indicating they have received the MMR vaccine or proof of immunity.
- This law does not change religious and medical exemption laws. Children who have one of these types of exemptions on file are not affected by the new law.
- [Access your family's immunization records](#) if you need to check whether you or your child meets the MMR vaccine requirements.
- This law will not affect most students. More than 9 out of 10 kindergartners in Washington are complete with both doses of MMR vaccine, and 96 percent of 6th graders have both doses. These students, along with those who have medical or religious exemptions, will notice no change from the new exemption law.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization/ExemptionLawChange>