



Umatilla County Public Health

NEWS RELEASE

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February 21 is School Exclusion Day in Oregon

Get immunizations up-to-date before School Exclusion Day February 21

Make sure your child is fully protected

February 21, 2018 is School Exclusion Day in Oregon, and Umatilla County Health Department wants to remind parents to check their children's immunization records to ensure they are up-to-date. If school and child care vaccination records are not up-to-date, children will be sent home from school on Exclusion Day and will not be able to attend school or child care until records show that the child has received 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. Exemptions are granted for both medical and non-medical reasons. For medical exemptions parents should contact their family care provider. If a parent wants a non-medical exemption for their child, 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

"Immunization is the very best and safest way to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases such as whooping cough and measles," said Jim Setzer, Director of Umatilla County Public Health. "Immunization helps keep our schools and community safe and healthy. Necessary immunizations are readily available for all children who need them through private health care providers and the Umatilla County Health Department. UCo Health is holding special walk-in clinic days at our Pendleton and Hermiston clinics to ensure that all children can receive the vaccinations they need to be up to date and protected." Special immunization walk-in days will be held February 15, 16 and 21 at the Hermiston clinic and on February 20 and 21 in the UCo Health Pendleton clinic. Immunizations can be scheduled by appointment on days other than the "walk-in only" clinic days. No one will be turned away due to the inability to pay for required vaccines.

Letters to parents notifying them of their child's potential exclusion were mailed on Feb. 5. If you receive a letter and have questions regarding the information it contains please call the UCo Health Department at 541-278-5432 for clarification or explanation.

Parents seeking immunizations for their children should contact their health care provider or UCo Health at 541-278-5432. Pharmacists can also immunize children, 7 years of age and older. Parents should contact their neighborhood pharmacy for details.

Additional information on school immunizations can be found at the Immunization Program website at www.healthoregon.org/imm. Follow the Oregon Immunization Program and UCo Health on Facebook and Twitter.

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