



Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation – Update

- As of July 1, 2019, BC's new Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation (the Regulation) requires parents and guardians to report the vaccination status of their school-age children to public health officials. This requirement applies to all students from K-12 in public and independent schools, as well as all children who are home-schooled.
- Children attending on-reserve schools in First Nations communities are currently excluded from the Regulation.
- Complete information on students' immunization status will further improve public health's ability to respond during a school outbreak by enabling the quick identification of under-immunized and un-immunized students.
- Please note: The Regulation is focused on the collection of immunization records at this time. Students' admission to schools is not contingent upon providing a vaccination report and/or proof of immunization.

Implementation - 2019/20 School Year

- In September 2019, public health units will begin reviewing immunization records and contacting families of school-aged children with missing or incomplete information.
- Parents will be able to go online to check whether their child's immunization record is missing or incomplete.
- Public health officials will be providing instructions to parents on how and where to submit their child's missing immunization information.
- If parents are not contacted by public health, it means their child's records are complete and no further action is required.

Role of Schools

- The Ministries of Health and Education, health authorities and the BC Centre for Disease Control are developing a consistent provincial implementation protocol for the Regulation that minimizes the administrative burden on school administrators and staff.
- At this time, the role of schools vis-à-vis immunization is not expected to change as the result of the Regulation:
 - Schools and school districts will continue to provide public health with class lists;



- As part of the established process for school-based immunization programs for Kindergarten, Grade 6 and Grade 9, schools will continue to facilitate the distribution and collection of student consent forms;
- School employees will not be contacting parents to ask for immunization information on behalf of health authorities;
- School employees will not be reviewing students' immunization information; and
- Schools will not be creating or maintaining databases of student immunization information.

Measles Catch-Up Program - Update

- From April 1 to June 30, the province successfully completed a Measles Immunization Catch-Up program for children from Kindergarten to Grade 12 who had not previously been fully immunized against measles.
- During the Catch-Up program, 590,748 students from kindergarten to Grade 12 had their immunization records reviewed and parents and guardians of children with missing or incomplete records were notified.
- Through increased immunizations and record reconciliation, the number of school-aged children now recorded as 'fully immunized' against measles in BC's Immunization Registry has risen by 37,525.

Questions?

For more information about the Regulation, please contact HealthLink BC toll-free @ 8-1-1. A complete list of public health units in BC is available at <https://immunizebc.ca/finder>.

Links:

1. Regulation FAQs on ImmunizeBC: <https://immunizebc.ca/vaccination-status-reporting-regulation>
2. Government of BC press release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019HLTH0079-001366>
3. Full text of the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation: http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/crbc/crbc/146_2004