



School year 2020-2021

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Bend-La Pine Schools! Getting your child ready for kindergarten is an exciting time for both parent and child. As your child prepares to enter public education as a kindergartner it is important that you understand statewide immunization and vision guidelines.

Immunizations

The information provided below will help you, as parents, make an informed decision to protect your children against communicable disease. If you should have any questions after reading the information below, please contact your child's health care provider or your child's school where you think they would be enrolled in as a kindergartner.

In order to start kindergarten in the state of Oregon, your child must have at least one of each immunization listed below.

5 doses of Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP),
4 doses of Polio,
1 dose of Varicella (chickenpox), or documentation of disease
2 doses of Measles/ Mumps/Rubella (MMR) or
2 Measles, 1 Mumps, and 1 Rubella
3 doses of Hepatitis B
2 doses of Hepatitis A

The State of Oregon requires that your child has either completed immunizations or is as up-to-date as possible following state immunization guidelines. If your child has a medical reason to be exempt from immunizations, please bring in a medical statement from your child's health care provider.

Oregon's Exemption Process for Non-Medical Reasons: Some people choose not to vaccinate for personal, religious, or philosophical reasons and they can claim a non-medical exemption to some or all immunizations. A parent claiming a non-medical exemption will be required to turn in either:

***A certificate from a health care provider documenting that they have discussed the benefits and risks of immunizations

or

***A certificate documenting that the parent watched an on-line interactive educational video developed by the Oregon Health Authority about immunizations.

This video is available online at www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption

Legislation (Senate Bills 132A and 895) was passed in recent years that require education about the risks and benefits of immunizations in order to claim an exemption. These laws help parents make informed choices and have questions answered before making decisions about vaccines.

Kindergartners not up-to-date on their immunizations will be excluded from school beginning Thursday, November 19, 2020 until their immunizations are complete. See below for immunization location information.

- You can obtain immunizations from your health care provider's office, Deschutes County Health Department or pharmacies for kids over 7 years of age. If you have questions, call your health care provider or the Deschutes County Health Department at (541) 322-7400.

- **Bend**

Mosaic Medical offers immunizations at the School Based Health Centers (SBHC). They accept both OHP and private insurance. If the family does not have medical insurance, there is a \$21.96 administration fee per immunization; **However, Mosaic offers a sliding scale fee and no one is denied service due to inability to pay.** Call Mosaic Medical at 541-383-3005 for an appointment at Ensworth Elementary School SBHC or at Bend High SBHC.

- **La Pine**

The LaPine Community Health Center, located at 51600 Huntington Rd, La Pine, OR 97739, offers immunizations with an administration fee of \$21.96 per immunization. Call (541) 536-3435 for an appointment.

Vision

As of July 2014, Oregon has adopted the *Children's Vision Law* for children 7 years of age or younger who are entering school for the first time. This law requires these students to have proof of a vision screening or comprehensive eye exam within the first 120 days of starting school. (This vision screening/exam can be done during your child's well-child exam with their health care provider.) Most annual vision exams are paid for through state or private insurance. If you do not have health insurance that covers eye exams, check with your school nurse about available community resources for eye examinations. *Bend-La Pine Schools partners with The Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation to provide screenings for students in grades k-5. These vision screenings satisfy this state requirement and are completed in the schools within the first 120 days from the start of the school year. (Screenings done at school do not replace a comprehensive eye exam.)

Dental

According to Oregon House Bill 2972, schools are required to collect dental screening information from parents or guardians on students aged 7 years of age or younger who are starting school for the first time in the state of Oregon. This dental screening information must be obtained no later than 120 days after the student starts school. Parents/guardians can submit certification that their student has received a dental screening within the previous 12 months from a licensed dentist or dental hygienist, or from a medical professional qualified to spot dental problems. Every year, Advantage Dental provides free dental screenings to Bend-La Pine elementary students in grades k-2. These dental screenings satisfy the dental screening requirement for House Bill 2972.

A parent or guardian can opt their child out of the dental screening requirement with a signature on the ODE (Oregon Department of Education) certification form if:

- The student submitted certification to a prior school in Oregon.
- The dental screening is contrary to the religious beliefs of the student or the parent or guardian of the student.
- The dental screening is a burden.
 - The dental screening is a burden for the student or the parent or guardian of the student when any of the following occur:
 - ♣ The cost of obtaining the dental screening is too high.
 - ♣ The student does not have access to a screener.
 - ♣ The student was unable to obtain an appointment with a screener.

For more information on the dental screening information requirements, please visit: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/Dental-Screening---Resources-and-Information.aspx>

When should my child stay home?

Communicable diseases such as colds, flu, chickenpox, pink eye, and impetigo are easily spread in a school setting. If your child is not feeling well, please arrange for him/her to remain at home. Children do not perform well when they are ill. Practice proper hand washing at home. Follow school guidelines <https://www.bend.k12.or.us/district/parents/health-immunizations> on when to keep your child home due to illness.

Medications at School

Some children are required to have medications during the school day in order to remain in school. These children must have a current parent authorization form on file before any medication may be given at school. This form is available at the school office or on the Bend-La Pine Schools website <https://www.bend.k12.or.us/district/parents/health-immunizations> (scroll down to *medication use*). The medication must be brought to school by the **parent or guardian** in the *current original container* appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician. Any medication changes must be in writing from the Oregon licensed health care provider treating your child. At the end of the school year, the **parent or guardian** must pick up the medication from the school. If the child needs the medication for the following school year, a new authorization form must be signed. The schools will not carry over medication from one school year to the next. Medication that comes to school must be **ONLY** medication for the child to remain in school. If medication can be given at home, it should be given at home before the child comes to school. If you have questions please contact the school nurse at your student's school.

Oregon Health Plan

How do I sign my child up for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP)?

You can apply for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) online. Go to OregonHealthCare.gov to find the application that works best for you and your family. OregonHealthCare.gov is a new website that works with the national health insurance website, HealthCare.gov.

There are 4 official local community agencies that can help families apply or reapply for OHP:

Mosaic Medical 541-383-3005
Healthy Beginnings 541-383-6357
Latino Community Association 541-382-4366
Information on community resources, call 211

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact your student's school nurse.

Thank you.

Tami Pike
Health Services Supervisor
Bend-La Pine Schools