

Dear Parents:

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 guidelines. 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 provided please contact your child's school where you think they would be enrolled in as a kindergartner. You also can talk to your child's healthcare provider about school and immunizations during their well-child exam.

In order to start kindergarten, your child must have at least one of each immunization listed below. The state required immunizations are:

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.

Change has come to Oregon's Religious Exemption Process. Religious exemptions are no longer valid. What was known as a "religious exemption" is now referred to a "non-medical exemption." 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.

Oregon has a high rate of Non-Medical Exemptions for kindergartners. 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 new laws will 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 17, 2016 until their immunizations are complete. 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 \$15.00 fee per immunization; **however, 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. The LaPine SBHC fee is \$21.96 per immunization. Call (541) 536-3435 for an appointment at the LaPine SBHC. You may also obtain immunizations from your doctor's office, Deschutes County Health Department or pharmacies for kids over 11 years of age. If you have questions, call your doctor or the Deschutes County Health Department at (541) 322-7400.

As of July 2014, Oregon has adopted the Children's Vision Law which requires children ages 7 years old or younger, entering school for the first time to have a vision exam and providing the school documentation of this exam. This vision exam can be done along with your child's well-child exam with their primary doctor. Most annual vision exams are paid for through state insurance or private insurance. If you do not have health insurance that covers eye exams, check with your school nurse at the start of school. There are gift certificates available for eye care if financial eligibility is met. Screenings done at school do not replace a comprehensive eye exam.

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 on when to keep your child home due to illness.

Some children are required to have medications during the school day in order to remain in school. These children must have a parent authorization form on file before any medication may be given at school. This form is available at

the school office. The medication must be brought to school by the parent in the current original container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician. Any medication changes must be in writing from the doctor treating your child. At the end of the school year, the parent 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 other. 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 child's school.

Sincerely,

Tami Pike
Health Services Supervisor
Bend-La Pine Schools