

**WHITE RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT #416
BOARD POLICY**

No. 6512

6000 MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Risk Management

6512 – Infection Control Program

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain vaccine-preventable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, the Board strongly urges that school staff members, including volunteers, provide evidence of immunity against Td (Tetanus-Diphtheria) and MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella). Staff members are encouraged to complete an Immunization History Form which documents the dates of immunizations and/or titer results. This form will be placed on file in the district office. Staff members who are inadequately immunized will be informed of the possibility of exclusion from work in the event of an “outbreak.”¹

Outbreak of Vaccine-Preventable Disease

The director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department has the authority to determine when an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease exists and to take whatever measures are necessary to control its spread (WAC 246-110-020). The health department may require that individuals at risk of contracting the disease be “excluded”² from work/school. In the event of an outbreak, the immunization requirements would be dependent upon the specific disease. In the case of Measles (Rubeola), for instance, those persons susceptible to the disease would be excluded from work/school for the duration of the outbreak or until documentation of protection is provided. The length of the outbreak is twenty-one (21) days after the onset of rash of the last case of documented Measles.

Staff members who have documentation of compliance with the routine recommended immunizations for adults will be in a better position to meet the greater requirements imposed during the outbreak and, thus, less likely to be excluded from work/school. During an outbreak of Measles (Rubeola), for example, staff born before 1957 who are usually considered immune would have to show proof of having had the disease with a blood titer or documentation of the immunization.

Signed Exemptions/Sick Leave

A staff member who has signed an “exemption”³ or who does not have a completed immunization record on file may be excluded as he/she is considered “susceptible.”⁴

A medical exemption may be filed when a Licensed Health Care Provider certifies that a staff member should not receive immunizations for medical reasons. In order to qualify for sick leave benefits, the staff member must have a medical exemption signed by their licensed health care provider. Staff who have not received immunizations due to

BOARD POLICY
(Continued)

No. 6512

religious or philosophical reasons and have signed the exemption section of the Immunization History Form will not be eligible for sick leave benefits because of the exemption itself.

¹ “Outbreak” is defined as one (1) suspect case.

² “Exclude” is defined as prohibiting entry to the work/school setting.

³ “Exemption” is defined as being excused from immunization requirements for medical, religious or personal reasons.

⁴ “Susceptible” is defined as being at risk for infection from various diseases.

Bloodborne Pathogens

White River School District is committed to providing a safe environment for employees which is as free as possible from exposure to bloodborne pathogens such as Hepatitis B and/or HIV. As such, all employees of the district are required to know and follow universal precautions as described by the Centers for Disease Control and as detailed in the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction publication "Guidelines for Handling Body Fluids in Schools."

The specific infection control policies and procedures which have been adopted and implemented in this district shall be reviewed and updated at least annually or whenever the introduction of new or modified tasks or procedures warrant. This exposure control plan contains information intended to supplement WAC 296-823 and its unique application in the school setting.