

Glossary of Immunization and Public Health Terms

Term	Definition
At risk	This term refers to an individual (or a segment of the population if describing "at-risk population") with significant probability of having or developing a given condition.
Antibody	A gamma globulin protein found in blood or other bodily fluids and used by the immune system to identify and neutralize foreign objects, such as bacteria and viruses.
Antigen	A substance that prompts the generation of antibodies and can cause an immune response.
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)	An organization of 60,000 pediatricians committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. The AAP gets involved in many programs and activities, works on policies and guidelines, and publishes child health materials and resources. All information used by the AAP comes from the nation's leading child health experts and scientific research supports the AAP's recommendations.
American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)	One of the largest national medical organizations, representing more than 94,000 family physicians, family medicine residents, and medical students nationwide. Founded in 1947, its mission aims to preserve and promote the science and art of family medicine and to ensure high-quality, cost-effective health care for patients of all ages.
Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)	<p>The ACIP consists of 15 experts in fields associated with immunization who have been selected by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide advice and guidance to the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the control of vaccine-preventable diseases.</p> <p>The committee develops written recommendations for the routine administration of vaccines to children and adults in the civilian population. Recommendations include age for vaccine administration, number of doses and dosing interval, and precautions and contraindications. The ACIP is the only entity in the federal government that makes such recommendations.</p> <p>The overall goals of the ACIP aim to provide advice that will lead to a reduction in the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases in the U.S. and an increase in the safe use of vaccines and related biological products.</p>
Assessment	The collection, analysis, and sharing of information about health conditions, risks, and resources among a group, such as a health department, school, or child care facility. Assessments can identify illness, immunity levels and injury trends, contributing factors, available health resources and their application, unmet needs, and group perceptions on health issues. Assessments

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	often take place at regular intervals.
Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG)	A vaccine given to infants and young children in many countries to reduce the risk of serious complications of tuberculosis, although not administered in the U.S.. BCG may also reduce the risk of transmission.
Bacteremia	Blood with bacteria in it. The blood is normally a sterile environment, so if we find bacteria in the blood we know it's always abnormal. Bacteria can enter the bloodstream as a severe complication of infections like pneumonia or meningitis. Bacteremia can cause different outcomes. The immune response to the bacteria can cause blood infections or blood poisoning (sepsis).
Blood poisoning	See bacteremia and sepsis.
Booster	A dose of a vaccine that a person gets after the initial series, usually when we know immunity gained by the vaccine tends to wane. For example, people need boosters of some childhood vaccines later in life to maintain protection from disease.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	An agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that works to protect public health and safety. It provides information to enhance health decisions and promotes health through partnerships with state health departments and other organizations. CDC focuses national attention on developing and applying disease prevention and control (especially infectious diseases), environmental health, occupational safety and health, health promotion, prevention, and education activities designed to improve the health of the people of the U.S.
Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS)	A one-page, two-sided document published by the Washington State Department of Health which records a child's immunization history. Washington State law requires all children attending schools, preschools, Head Start/ECEAP programs, or child care facilities to complete a CIS. Parents or guardians must fill out the CIS with the diseases a child has been immunized against and the day, month, and year when their child got each dose. Parents must also sign the completed CIS or else it remains invalid. The CIS is compared with immunization requirements for the child's age or grade and the child's immunization is calculated. If the child does not meet the immunization requirements, she or he may be excluded from attending school, preschool, Head Start/ECEAP programs, or child care.
Certificate of Exemption (COE)	A one-page document published by the Washington State Department of Health. Washington State law requires that all children attending schools, preschools, Head Start/ECEAP programs, or child care facilities and who also claim an exemption from immunization requirements to complete a COE. If the child claims a religious or philosophical exemption, the parents/guardians must sign the COE. If the child claims a medical exemption, a licensed health care provider must sign the COE.
Chickenpox	See varicella.
Child care center	Any person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation that

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or child care facility	regularly provides care for a group of children for periods of less than 24 consecutive hours. This includes licensed in-home facilities, centers, child care homes, and children's group homes.
Child Profile	<p>Washington State's Health Promotion and Immunization Registry system designed to help ensure Washington's children receive the preventive health care they need, including immunizations. The system includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A statewide, Web-based immunization tracking system. All providers in Washington State can utilize the Child Profile Immunization Registry to track immunizations for their patients. Schools and Head Start/ECEAP programs can have access to the Registry to view and print the immunization histories and the Certificates of Immunization Status of children at their school or preschool. 2. A statewide health promotion system that mails health, safety, development, and other health education information to all parents of children aged birth to six years in Washington State. The health promotion materials get sent at regular intervals that roughly match the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommended well child visit schedule.
Communicable disease	A clinically evident disease capable of causing infection or disease in another person or species by the spread of bacteria, viruses, or other organisms that grow and multiply. Also known as "contagious disease" or "infectious disease."
Contagious disease	A clinically evident disease capable of causing infection or disease in another person or species by the spread of bacteria, viruses, or other organisms that grow and multiply. Also known as "contagious disease" or "infectious disease."
Department of Health	A statewide public health agency that works with federal, state, and local partners to help people in Washington stay healthier and safer. The department's programs and services help prevent illness and injury, promote healthy places to live and work, provide education to help people make good health decisions, and ensure that Washington State is prepared for emergencies.
Diphtheria	Diphtheria is a respiratory and vaccine-preventable disease caused by bacteria. It can cause breathing and heart problems, coma, paralysis, and death.
Disease	An abnormal condition of an organism that impairs bodily functions and can be deadly. In human beings, "disease" often gets used more broadly to refer to any condition that causes extreme pain, dysfunction, distress, social problems, and/or death to the person afflicted, or similar problems for those in contact with the person.
DT	A vaccine used for protection against diphtheria and tetanus. Children who can't get the vaccine against pertussis often get DT vaccine (instead of DTaP, see next entry). Children up to the seventh birthday can get DT vaccine.
DTaP	A vaccine used for protection against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. This vaccine replaced the previous DTP vaccine. The acellular (a) component reduces the risk of adverse effects from the vaccine, frequent with the DTP vaccine. Children up to the

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	seventh birthday can get DTaP vaccine.
DTP	A vaccine (no longer given in the U.S.) used for protection against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis in other countries. In the U.S., DTaP vaccine replaced use of the DTP vaccine. Children up to the seventh birthday can get DTP vaccine.
Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)	A Washington State-funded comprehensive preschool program for children aged four years.
Early Head Start	A federally-funded comprehensive early childhood and family development program for children aged birth to three years.
Epidemiology	The study of factors affecting the health and illness of populations. Epidemiology serves as the foundation and logic of interventions made in the interest of public health and preventive medicine. It is considered a cornerstone methodology of public health research and is highly regarded in evidence-based medicine for identifying risk factors for disease and determining optimal treatment approaches to clinical practice. In the world of communicable and non-communicable diseases, the work of epidemiologists ranges from outbreak investigation to study design, data collection, and analysis.
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib)	A severe bacterial infection that primarily affects infants and children under age five. Hib vaccine can prevent the disease, which can cause infections of the joints, skin, and blood; meningitis (swelling of the covering of the brain and spinal cord); brain damage; and death. Prior to the vaccine, Hib was the leading cause of bacterial meningitis among children under age five.
HAV	A vaccine used for protection against hepatitis A.
HBV	A vaccine used for protection against hepatitis B.
Head Start	A federally-funded comprehensive early childhood and family development program for children aged three to five years.
Health care provider	A professional who delivers health services. Examples of health care providers include physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, naturopathic physicians, and osteopathic physicians.
Health education	Any planned combination of learning experiences designed to predispose, enable, and reinforce voluntary behavior conducive to the health of individuals, groups, or communities.
Health promotion	Any planned combination of educational, political, regulatory, and organizational support for actions and conditions of living conducive to the health of individuals, groups, or communities.
Hepatitis B	A virus which can cause serious liver infections and lead to death. HepB vaccine can prevent the disease. People with chronic hepatitis B can develop liver disease and liver cancer.
Herpes zoster (shingles)	A viral, vaccine-preventable disease, commonly known as shingles. Shingles is related to varicella (varicella zoster virus). The initial infection with varicella causes the acute (short-lived) illness chickenpox and generally occurs in children and young people. Once an episode of chickenpox has resolved, the virus remains in the body and can cause shingles, often many years after

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	the initial infection. Shingles has different symptoms than chickenpox.
Hib	A vaccine used for protection against <i>haemophilus influenzae</i> type b.
Home-schooled student	A child whose parents or guardians has registered intent with the local school district to educate their child at home rather than at a public or private school.
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	A common virus that spreads by genital contact, most often during sex. About 40 types of HPV can infect the genital areas of women and men. Most HPV types cause no symptoms and go away on their own. But some types of HPV can cause cervical cancer (and other genital cancers) in females. Other types of HPV can cause genital warts in both women and men. Vaccinating against HPV has shown to be very effective in preventing those types of genital HPV that cause cervical cancer and genital warts.
Immune	A condition of being able to resist a particular disease especially through preventing development of a pathogenic microorganism or by counteracting the effects of its products.
Immune system	The system that protects the body from foreign substances, cells, and tissues, producing the immune response (or producing a high degree of resistance to a disease).
Immunization	<p>The process by which an individual's immune system becomes fortified against an agent (or antigen), most commonly gained through vaccination.</p> <p>Also terms used interchangeably with immunization: "inoculation" and "vaccination." These mean the use of vaccines induce immunity in a person against a vaccine-preventable disease.</p>
Immunization Program Child Profile	<p>A public health program housed within the Washington State Department of Health. The program's activities aim to prevent the occurrence and transmission of childhood, adolescent, and adult vaccine-preventable diseases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing immunization, health, and safety information to all Washington parents of children aged birth six years through the Child Profile Health Promotion system. • Ensuring that parents, health care providers, schools, child care facilities, and state and local health agencies work together to promote healthy families and to increase the use of preventive health care for children and adolescents. • Administrating the statewide, Web-based immunization information system for providers to track and monitor patient immunization records. • Providing vaccines to all children under age 19, regardless of income, through state and federal funding, including the Vaccines for Children program.
Immunization record	Record that includes information about a child's immunization history, such as which vaccines the child got and when. The Washington State Department of Health publishes a Lifetime Immunization Record card for people to track their immunization history. Health care providers may also have their own paper records for patients and/or may use the Child Profile Immunization Registry to enter immunization

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	<p>information for their patients.</p> <p>Washington State law requires that every child attending a child care facility, preschool, Head Start/ECEAP program, or fill out his or her immunization history on a Certificate of Immunization Status.</p>
Immunization schedule	<p>A timetable with recommended ages for immunizing against particular vaccine-preventable diseases. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians, publishes a national recommended immunization schedule each year for the following age groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children ages birth–6 years. • Children ages 7–18 years. • Adults aged 19 years and older. <p>Find the recommended immunization schedules at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/documents/0-6immssched10.pdf and http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/documents/7-18immssched10.pdf</p>
<p>Immunization status</p> <p>For specific language defining status in Washington law, see Chapter 5, Resources, “Washington Administrative Code (WAC)”</p>	<p>A child’s immunization history as it relates to school and child care immunization requirements. Parents or guardians must fill out a Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) indicating their child’s immunization history. Based on the CIS, schools and licensed child care facilities must report the immunization status of their students to the Washington State Department of Health each year on a status report.</p> <p>Washington State law considers students who have an immunization status of complete, conditional, or exempt as complying with the law. Status definitions include:</p>
Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete or fully immunization status means that a child has received all immunizations required for age.
Conditional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditional immunization status refers to a temporary status when a child does not have an immunization against one or more of the vaccine-preventable diseases required by law. This child can attend a school or child care only if he or she makes satisfactory progress toward full immunization. If the child does not make satisfactory progress, he or she may need to stay home (get excluded) if the disease occurs at the school or child care, for the duration of the occurrence.
Exempt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt immunization status means the child is legally excused from being immunized because of his or her family’s personal or religious beliefs or for medical reasons.
Out of compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of compliance status means that the child does not meet the immunization requirements established by law. In other words, the child does not have any of the other immunization statuses (complete, conditional, or exempt).
Inactivated poliovirus (IPV)	<p>A vaccine used to protect against polio. This vaccine replaced the previous oral poliovirus (OPV) vaccine in the U.S. which causes fewer adverse side effects than OPV. Other countries still use OPV.</p>

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Infectious disease	A clinically-evident disease capable of causing infection or disease in another person or species by the spread of bacteria, viruses, or other organisms that grow and multiply. Also known as "communicable disease" or "contagious disease."
Influenza (flu)	<p>A respiratory virus that can lead to pneumonia and heart problems. Many people confuse influenza, commonly known as flu, with digestive illnesses referred to as "stomach flu," but influenza actually affects the lungs and heart.</p> <p>Influenza can be very serious for babies and older adults as well as for people with chronic medical problems. Each year, the flu vaccine uses the three most commonly circulating flu strains. Getting a flu vaccine is the best way to get protection from influenza.</p>
Informed consent	A medical-legal doctrine that holds health care providers responsible for ensuring that patients understand the risks and benefits of a procedure or medicine before administering that procedure or medicine.
Injection	A shot given with a hypodermic needle, such as used to administer a vaccine.
Inoculation	<p>The placement of something where it will grow or reproduce, most commonly used to describe the introduction of a serum, vaccine, or antigenic substance into the body of a human or animal, especially to produce or boost immunity to a specific disease.</p> <p>Used interchangeably with "immunization" and "vaccination" to indicate the use of vaccines to induce immunity in a person against a vaccine-preventable disease.</p>
International student	A student from another country temporarily living and studying in the U.S.
Law	A mandate that governs a nation or state for every resident to obey. A law or statute gets passed by Congress or a state legislature and approved by the President or governor. In Washington State, these rules get recorded in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) explains how the law should be followed.
Lockjaw	See tetanus.
Mantoux test	A diagnostic tool used to screen for tuberculosis infection. It is one of the two major tuberculin skin tests used in the world, largely replacing multiple-puncture tests. Also known as purified protein derivative or PPD. This test is endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Measles	A highly contagious and vaccine-preventable disease that can lead to pneumonia, hearing loss, brain damage, and death. A child who has not had a measles vaccine will most likely get measles if she or he is exposed to the disease.
Meningitis	A disease caused by swelling of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord, known collectively as the meninges.
Meningococcal	A vaccine-preventable, bacterial infection that can cause meningitis (swelling of the covering of the brain and spinal cord), pneumonia, and blood infection (sepsis). Severe disease can cause brain damage, hearing loss, or limb loss.

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Migrant student	A child who moves across school district or state lines with parents or guardians due to seasonal or temporary work.
MMR	A combination vaccine used to protect against measles, mumps, and rubella.
Monitoring	Tracking health information, such as immunization records, and using this information to identify health needs and risk factors and to provide preventive health care.
Mumps	A vaccine-preventable, viral, contagious disease that can lead to hearing loss, meningitis (swelling of the covering of the brain and spinal cord), and brain damage.
Non-communicable disease	A disease that does not spread by infectious agents, such as bacteria or viruses – the opposite of an infectious, contagious, or communicable disease.
Oral poliovirus (OPV)	A vaccine used for protection against polio. The U.S. replaced OPV by inactivated poliovirus (IPV) vaccine because it causes fewer adverse side effects than OPV. Other countries still use OPV.
Pertussis (whooping cough)	A vaccine-preventable, highly contagious, respiratory disease that can cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. Often, babies with pertussis must be hospitalized.
Pneumococcal	A bacterial and vaccine-preventable disease that can cause meningitis (swelling of the covering of the brain and spinal cord), serious blood infections (bacteremia), and pneumonia.
Pneumonia	A bacterial or viral inflammatory illness of the lung. Typical symptoms associated with pneumonia include cough, chest pain, fever, and difficulty breathing. Pneumonia occurs in all age groups. Vaccines can prevent certain types of pneumonia.
Policy	A set of objectives and rules guiding the activities of an organization or an administration and providing authority for allocation of resources.
Polio (poliomyelitis)	A vaccine-preventable viral inflammation (swelling) of the spinal cord that has no treatment or cure. Polio can cause permanent paralysis and death. Polio no longer exists in the U.S. but does still infect people in other countries. Because of frequent international travel, diseases from other parts of the world (such as polio) are literally only a plane ride away.
Purified protein derivative (PPD) test	A diagnostic tool used to screen for tuberculosis infection. Endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and one of two major tuberculin skin tests used in the world, PPD has largely replaced multiple-puncture tests. Also known as the Mantoux test.
Preschool	An educational program that emphasizes school and social-emotional readiness skills for children who have not yet entered kindergarten. Children typically enroll on a regular basis for four hours per day or less of preschool.
Prevention	Actions taken to reduce susceptibility or exposure to health problems (primary prevention), detect and treat disease in early stages (secondary prevention), or alleviate the effects of disease and injury (tertiary prevention). Immunization is an excellent example of primary prevention.
RCW	See Revised Code of Washington.
Revised Code of	The document in which the laws passed by the Washington State

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Washington (RCW)	legislature and approved by the governor can be found. These laws govern Washington State and must be obeyed by every Washington resident. The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) explains how Washington laws should be followed.
Regulation	A rule or order enacted by a public agency or board to supervise and control business operations that affect the public. Both State and Federal agencies can establish and enforce regulations. The State Board of Health in collaboration with the State Department of Health establishes immunization regulations in Washington State.
Rotavirus	A common, vaccine-preventable virus that affects infants and young children. Rotavirus can cause high fever and vomiting, followed by diarrhea. These symptoms can cause the child to lose body fluids and become dehydrated, which can lead to hospitalization. The leading cause of severe diarrhea in children worldwide, rotavirus infects nearly every child in the world at least once by the age of five.
Rubella (German measles)	An infectious viral, vaccine-preventable disease. Pregnant women who get rubella can miscarry or have babies with birth defects such as blindness, deafness, heart problems, or developmental delays. Also known as German measles and Three-Day measles.
Rule	An established guide or regulation with detailed legal consequences and often explains how a law is to be implemented. A rule can be made by a legislature, court, or public office and relates to business conduct. In Washington State, rules explaining laws are found in the Washington Administrative Code.
Running Start	A Washington State educational program that allows high school juniors and seniors to attend college courses numbered 100 or above tuition-free while completing high school. Started in 1993, Running Start provides up to two years of paid tuition at any state-run community college or four-year university. High school juniors who can pass the entrance exam for a local community college may take part or all of their coursework at the community college. Successfully passing a course earns a student both high school and college credit.
RV1 and RV5	Vaccines used for protection against rotavirus.
School	A facility, site, or campus for programs of education as defined in RCW 28A.210.070 to include preschool and kindergarten through twelfth grade.
Sepsis	A serious whole-body inflammatory disease, caused by infection, commonly called "blood poisoning."
Shingles	See herpes zoster.
Shot	An injection given with a hypodermic needle, such as used to administer a vaccine.
State Board of Health	A state agency that serves the citizens of Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. Established in 1889 by the State Constitution, the Board provides

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	leadership by suggesting public health policies and actions, by regulating certain activities, and by providing a public forum. The governor appoints nine of the ten members to fill three-year terms.
Susceptible	<p>Refers to being are at-risk of catching a disease. Children attending school and child care must get immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. Children are considered susceptible in terms of school and child care immunizations if they are un-immunized or under immunized against these vaccine-preventable diseases.</p> <p>Susceptible children can get excluded from school and child care during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease against which did not get vaccinated.</p>
Tetanus (lockjaw)	A vaccine-preventable disease that occurs when a tetanus germ (typically found in soil) enters the body through cut or puncture wound. Tetanus attacks the nervous system and can cause spasms and rigidity of some or all of the voluntary muscles, especially the jaw (hence the common name "lockjaw"), face, and neck. Tetanus can lead to breathing problems and often death.
Td	A vaccine used for protection against tetanus and diphtheria and licensed only for children older than age seven years and adults. Adults need a Td booster at ten-year intervals since bacterial immunity wanes. Current recommendations call for the use of a Tdap booster (see Tdap) instead of Td.
Tdap	A vaccine used for protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Current recommendations for pre-teens, teens, and adults call for getting the Tdap vaccine booster instead of Td, since Tdap offers protection against pertussis as well as tetanus and diphtheria. Recommendations: A single dose for adolescents 11 or 12 years of age; and a single dose in place of one Td booster in older adolescents and adults age 19 through 64.
Tracking	The recording and reviewing of health records, such as immunizations. Tracking also involves identifying health needs and risk factors to support preventative health care.
Vaccination	<p>The administration of antigenic material (the vaccine) to produce immunity to a disease.</p> <p>Often used interchangeably today with "immunization" and "inoculation" to indicate the use of vaccines to induce immunity in a person against a vaccine-preventable disease.</p>
Vaccine	A biological preparation that used to establish or improve immunity to a particular disease, typically of killed or live (but weakened) microorganisms. Vaccines get introduced into the body most often through an injection (shot), but may also be given orally (like the rotavirus vaccine) or through a nasal spray (like the Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine).
Vaccine-preventable disease	A disease that can be preventable or significantly reduced by the use of a vaccine.
WAC	See Washington Administrative Code.
Washington	Explanations of Washington State agencies' or boards' administrative

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Administrative Code (WAC)	rules, policies, and procedures for implementing the laws documented in the Revised Code of Washington.
Varicella (chickenpox)	A contagious and vaccine-preventable disease caused by the varicella zoster virus. It causes an itchy skin rash (with blisters) and fever. Varicella can be severe and may lead to serious skin infections, pneumonia, and meningitis (swelling of the covering of the brain and spinal cord).
Varicella zoster virus (VZV)	See varicella.
Virtual school student	A student who attends school through virtual (computer-based) opportunities, such as distance learning.
Washington State Department of Health	See Department of Health.
Whooping cough (pertussis)	See pertussis.