

Office of Immunization

PURPOSE

The Office of Immunization promotes healthy choices and works to make Washington free of vaccine-preventable diseases. We are committed to the following goals:

- 1) Establishing and maintaining statewide infrastructure to support vaccine supply, clinical guidance on immunizations, immunization data collection and analysis, and promotion of immunization across the lifespan.
- 2) Collaborating with health care providers, government agencies, and community organizations to educate parents and guardians on healthy choices and preventive care.
- 3) Increasing vaccine coverage by addressing barriers to vaccination to increase accessibility and promote health equity.

POPULATION OF FOCUS

All Residents of Washington State

SECTIONS*

Budget and Operations • Immunization Information System • Clinical, Quality, and Schools
• Vaccine Management • Assessment • Informatics

MAJOR FUNCTION

- Conduct clinic-based immunization assessments and support quality improvement initiatives
- Educate families with children aged birth to 6 years on immunizations, well-child visits, and other nutrition, development, and health and safety issues through Watch Me Grow mailings
- Inform the public and health care workers about needed immunizations to prevent disease
- Measure immunization rates, identify factors that contribute to under-immunization, and implement strategies to increase rates
- Provide immunization data to health care providers
- Purchase and distribute vaccines for children aged birth through 18 years to public and private providers
- Purchase and distribute vaccines for uninsured and underinsured adults
- Respond to vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks
- Support parents/guardians, schools, childcares, and early learning facilities in meeting immunization requirements

MAJOR ISSUES

- Access to care and vaccine coverage for Medicaid-eligible and uninsured populations
- Addressing inaccurate and misleading information about vaccines
- Ensuring pregnant women are vaccinated High rates of vaccine exemptions
- Information Systems to better target interventions
- Lack of immunization compliance for children in school and childcare
- Meeting immunization coverage rate goals Partnerships with private organizations Providing geographic vaccine data to partners
- Public awareness of immunizations as a community safety measure
- Risk to infants from vaccine-preventable diseases
- Inequities in vaccination coverage

*The Center for Public Affairs receives funding from OI to support immunization health promotion, communications, and Watch Me Grow mailings.

BUDGET

For the 2023-2025 biennium, the Office of Immunization core budget is about \$505.3 million with interagency reimbursements (IARs) included. This consists of General Fund State (1.8%), Federal (4.2%), Vaccine State Funds (88.8%), and includes 5.1% in funding from other state agencies for items including Title XIX Medicaid Program Match for Watch Me Grow Health Promotion and Immunization Information System activities. The office gets approximately \$448.9 million per biennium in vaccines in lieu of cash from the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program to support vaccine ordering and spending for the VFC population.

The Office of Immunization has 103 full-time permanent, non-permanent, and project staff, funded through a combination of direct appropriations and interagency reimbursements.

TOTAL ALLOTMENTS BY FUND TYPE

Division of Prevention and Community Health – Office of Immunization 2023–25 Biennium

Total (with IARs) = \$ \$505,373,196
 Total (without IARs) = \$ \$479,173,196

