<Child Care Signature Block>

Dear <facility name> Staff or Volunteer,

In May 2019, Gov. Jay Inslee signed Engrossed House Bill 1638. The law removes the option for a personal/philosophical exemption to the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine requirement for schools and child cares. It also requires employees and volunteers at child care centers to provide immunization records indicating they have received the MMR vaccine or proof of immunity. The new law will take effect on July 28, 2019. We are sending you this letter to help you implement necessary changes.

**Based on this new law, you will need to provide one of the following to us by July 28, 2019:**

* An immunization record indicating you have received at least one dose of MMR vaccination.
* Lab evidence of immunity to measles disease (also known as a blood test or titer).
* Documentation from a health care provider that you have had measles disease sufficient to provide immunity against measles.
* Written certification signed by a health care practitioner, licensed in WA State, (medical doctor (MD), naturopathic doctor (ND), osteopathic doctor (DO), advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) or a physician’s assistant (PA)) that the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine is, in the practitioner's judgment, not advisable for you.

By notifying you now, we hope you will have sufficient time to meet the new immunization requirements. As a community, we must protect our own health and work together to protect each other’s health. Choosing to immunize is one of the most important decisions you can make to protect yourself, your children, your family, and the community from diseases that vaccines prevent.

Changes to the state law can be found here: <http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/1638.SL.pdf>

You can find more information at the WA Department of Health exemption law change web page, including FAQs: [www.doh.wa.gov/mmrexemption](https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization/ExemptionLawChange)

If you have any questions, you can contact us at: <contact info>

Thank you,

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**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Can a staff person or volunteer turn in an exemption to the requirement?** Staff and volunteers may not be exempted from the requirement to provide documentation of immunity for personal and religious reasons. Only written certification signed by a health care practitioner, licensed in WA State, (medical doctor (MD), naturopathic doctor (ND), osteopathic doctor (DO), advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) or a physician’s assistant (PA)) that the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine is, in the practitioner's judgment, not advisable for the person can be used instead of the documentation of immunity requirement.
2. **What if staff or volunteers need more time to obtain and provide the needed records?** The child day care center may allow a person to be employed or volunteer on the premises for up to 30 calendar days if they sign a written statement that they have received the MMR vaccine or are immune from measles, but require additional time to obtain and provide the records.
3. **How can a parent, staff member, or volunteer find their immunization records?**

They can [access their family’s immunization records](https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/ChildProfileHealthPromotion/ForParents/AccessyourFamilysImmunizationInformation) to see if they or their child meets the MMR vaccine requirements. If you have medically verified vaccination records from another state or country or from earlier than 1993, bring those records to your healthcare provider. Medically verified records can be added to the state registry by your healthcare provider so it will be easier to find them in the future.

1. **If staff or volunteers think they had the MMR vaccine in the past and can’t find their records, is it safe to get another one?** In most cases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends repeating the vaccine if there is no medically verified record that the shot was given. If that is not an option, a titer test is available to check whether you are immune to measles. Consult with your healthcare provider for the best option for you.
2. **Why don’t K-12 school staff also have to meet this new requirement?** The new law does not include language requiring school staff and volunteers to provide documentation of immunity to MMR disease. Children under age one year are too young to receive routine MMR vaccine and are especially vulnerable to the disease. Additionally, children under age five years are more likely to experience more severe complications of measles disease.
3. **If an employee or volunteer was vaccinated for measles but they did not get the MMR vaccine, is that sufficient, or do they need to get the full MMR vaccine**? If they are providing documentation of being vaccinated, it needs to include vaccination against all three diseases- measles, mumps and rubella.If they are providing lab evidence of immunity (also known as a blood test or titer), it only needs to be for measles.