



Date: August 14, 2019

To: Washington State Board of Health Members

From: Thomas Pendergrass, MD, MSPH, Vice Chair

Subject: Rules Hearing – Immunizations Rulemaking – Chapter 246-105 WAC

Background and Summary:

The State Board of Health (Board) has authority under RCW 28A.210.140 to adopt rules establishing the immunization requirements for child care or school entry. Chapter 246-105 WAC implements this state law by establishing immunization requirements for certain vaccine-preventable diseases for children attending schools and child care centers.

The Board received requests from several school nurses in 2016 asking to change the rule to require students to be fully immunized before school entry. The Board decided at the time not to engage in rulemaking and instead suggested that Board and Department of Health (Department) staff continue the discussion with stakeholders about strategies to reduce the administrative burden to schools while decreasing the number of children who are out of compliance with school immunization requirements. Board and Department of Health (Department) staff initiated rulemaking by filing a CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry, on March 6, 2018 and staff filed a CR-102, Proposed Rule, on July 2, 2019.

I have invited Michelle Weatherly, Senior Policy Analyst for the Office of Immunization and Child Profile at the Department, and Alexandra Montañó, Policy Advisor for the Board, to provide a summary of the proposed changes, share the comments that were received on the proposed rule, and to provide staff recommendations on how to address the comments. Following their presentation we will hold a public hearing on the rule and discuss the proposed changes.

Recommended Board Action:

The Board may wish to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

The Board adopts the proposed amendments to chapter 246-650 WAC as published in WSR 19-14-103, with the revisions agreed upon at today's meeting, and directs staff to file a CR-103 and establish an effective date.

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Staff

Alexandra Montaña

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PO Box 47990 • Olympia, WA 98504-7990