

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

**Date:** October 13, 2021

**To:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**From:** Tom Pendergrass, Board Vice Chair

**Subject:** Briefing – Immunization Criteria

## Background and Summary:

RCW 28A.210.060 establishes an immunization program as necessary to protect the health of the public and individuals by providing a means for the achievement of full immunization of school-age children against certain vaccine preventable disease. The Board, under, RCW 28A.210.140, is required to adopt rules which establish the procedural and substantive requirements for full immunization. The Board has adopted such rules in chapter 246-105 WAC.

In 2004, the Board directed staff to work with the Department of Health (Department) to convene an advisory group on vaccination requirements with the goal of developing criteria for determining whether specific immunizing agents should be required. The Immunizations Advisory Committee was established and recommendations from the Committee were presented and adopted by the Board in 2006. In 2017, the Board and Department convened a separate Committee to evaluate the criteria and make recommendation regarding updates. The Board adopted the recommended changes in November 2017.

The Board's criteria outlines the process by which an antigen would be reviewed. If the two qualifying assumptions - a process exists to opt out and the vaccine(s) is accessible and a cost-barrier does not exist - are met, the Board would determine if there is adequate information available to evaluate against the nine criteria. If so, a technical advisory group (TAG) of multidisciplinary members could be convened and vote on the nine criteria and an overall recommendation. The final recommendations of the TAG would be brought to the Board for next steps. The Board may choose to accept or decline a TAG's recommendation.

I have invited Sam Pskowski, Board staff to provide an overview of the Board's process and the nine criteria.

## Staff

Samantha Pskowski

(continued on the next page)

Washington State Board of Health

October 13, 2021 Meeting Memo

Page 2

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