



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to Consider COVID-19 for Inclusion
Washington's Immunization of Child Care and School Children Against
Certain Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Rule

- 1. Who do I contact if I have comments, concerns, or want to share information with the TAG?**
 - a. Please submit your correspondence to wsboh@sboh.wa.gov. The Board is the only entity that accepts public comment.

- 2. When will meeting minutes be available after a TAG meeting?**
 - a. TAG meeting summary notes will be posted to the Board's website as soon as the information is available. The summary notes will be posted to the Board's website on the ['Meetings' web page](#).

- 3. How do I get copies of the materials and presentations shared during a TAG meeting?**
 - a. Materials from a TAG meeting will be available on the [meeting web page](#) of the Board's website.

- 4. When is the next TAG meeting?**
 - a. The TAG meetings are scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 17 and Thursday, Feb. 24 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- 5. How do I get an agenda for a future TAG meeting?**
 - a. Agendas for TAG meetings will be posted to the Board's website on the ['Meetings' web page](#) as soon as they become available. You may also subscribe to the Board's email distribution list to [receive notices for future meetings](#) directly to your inbox.

- 6. Are the TAG meetings recorded?**
 - a. The purpose of the TAG is to develop recommendations for the full Board to consider at a future Board meeting. It is Board practice to have TAG meetings, like subcommittee meetings, serve as work sessions and guide preparation and work-related issues for the full Board to consider at future Board meetings; therefore, TAG meetings are not recorded. Consistent with Board practice and to maintain transparency, the meetings are open

for public observation. TVW may cover the TAG meetings if their schedule allows. We encourage you to [visit the TVW website to view their schedule](#).

7. Who is serving on the TAG and what are their positions or titles?

- a. The TAG consists of representatives from the fields of public health, primary care, epidemiology, medical ethics, and representatives of diverse communities in Washington State. At their discretion, the co-chairs have also included parent representatives, representatives from public and private schools, the school nurse profession, child-care, and tribal representation. A list of the membership positions is available on the [Board's website](#).

8. What is the process the Board uses to evaluate a vaccine for inclusion in school/childcare immunization requirements?

- a. Since 2006, the Board has relied on multi-disciplinary TAGs to review vaccines against nine criteria to recommend to the Board whether specific immunizing agents should be added to the list of required immunizations for school entry. These criteria outline the process by which a vaccine would be reviewed. More details about the process and the nine criteria are available on the Board's website: https://sboh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-01/ImmunizationCriteria_a.pdf

9. What authority does the Board have to create a new school immunization requirement?

- a. Revised Code of Washington (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 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). The statute also provides for an exemption process, outlined in chapter 246-105 WAC.

10. What exemptions are allowed for school immunizations requirements?

- a. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.210.090 allows for a medical, religious, or personal or philosophical exemption, with the exception of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). Only a medical or religious exemption are available for the MMR vaccine.

11. I have more questions. Who can I contact?

- a. The state Department of Health COVID Hotline is staffed 7-days a week and staffed to help answer your questions. Please call 1-800-525-0127 to talk with someone or [visit their web page for more information](#).