Washington State Board of Health

TAG Recommendation: COVID19 Vaccine

April 13, 2022
Outline

• Review of Board authority and rule
• Review of Technical Advisory Group process
• Timeline
• Recommendation from the Technical Advisory Group
Child care and school entry requires one of the following:

- Proof of full immunization
- Initiation of and compliance with schedule
- Applicable Exemption
Exemptions

- Medical
- Religious
- Philosophical or Personal*

* Philosophical or Personal exemption is not available for the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine. RCW 28A.210.090(1)(c)
Board Rule – Chapter 246-105 WAC

• RCW 28A.210.140 requires the Board to adopt rules which establish the procedural and substantive requirements for full immunization.

• These rules establish the documentation of immunization status required for child care and school entry, including a list of vaccine preventable diseases a child is required to be vaccinated against, or show proof of acquired immunity for.

• In 2004, the Board convened the Immunizations Advisory Committee to develop criteria to guide decision making and provide a systematic approach to determining which immunizing agents are included in the rule.

• The Board adopted the criteria in 2006 and updated the criteria in 2017.
Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice recommends a fully FDA approved immunization against a specific antigen for the school aged population.

Board reviews against qualifying assumptions:
1) There is a process for exemptions (philosophical, religious, and personal)
2) Immunization is accessible and cost is not a barrier

If qualifying assumptions are met and sufficient information is available, the Board may choose to convene a technical advisory group (TAG) to assess the antigen against the nine criteria.

Board and DOH convene an interdisciplinary technical advisory group to consider the evidence, including assessment of Washington specific data (when available).

Subject matter experts present to the TAG information to assess the antigen against the criteria and the TAG votes to provide recommendations to the Board.

TAG recommendations are presented to the Board.

Board considers the information and TAG recommendations and may vote to direct staff to initiate rulemaking to consider amending chapter 246-105 WAC.
The nine criteria are encompassed in three categories:

- Vaccine Effectiveness
- Disease Burden
- Implementation
Vaccine Effectiveness

• A vaccine containing this antigen is recommended by ACIP and included on its Recommended Childhood & Adolescent Immunization Schedule

• The vaccine containing this antigen is effective as measured by immunogenicity and population-based prevention data in Washington State

• The vaccine containing this antigen is cost effective from a societal perspective

• Experience to date with the vaccine containing this antigen demonstrates that it is safe and has an acceptable level of side effects
Disease Burden

• The vaccine containing this antigen prevents disease(s) that has significant morbidity and/or mortality in at least some sub-set of the population

• Vaccinating against this disease reduces the risk of person-to-person transmission, with transmission in a school or childcare setting or activity being given the highest priority
Implementation

• The vaccine containing this antigen is acceptable to the medical community and the public

• The administrative burden of delivery and tracking of vaccine containing this antigen are reasonable

• The burden of compliance for the vaccine containing this antigen is reasonable for the parent/caregiver
Timeline

• **October 2021:** Board voted to direct staff to work with the Department of Health to convene a TAG to consider COVID-19 vaccine

• **October – December 2021:** Staff worked with TAG co-chairs to establish membership positions and fill TAG seats

• **December 29, 2021:** The TAG met for an orientation meeting

• **October 2021 – February 2022:** At the discretion of the cochairs, staff identified subject matter experts to present on information needed for the TAG to consider each criteria

• **February 10, 17, and 24, 2022:** TAG met to review the vaccine against the Board’s nine criteria to develop a final recommendation
Technical Advisory Group Criteria Review
Criteria 1: A vaccine containing this antigen is recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and included on its Recommended Childhood & Adolescent Immunization Schedule.

- The TAG was provided information regarding the ACIP recommendations from Department of Health staff.

- Key discussion points:
  - The COVID-19 vaccine is listed as recommended by ACIP, but not formally included on the ACIP schedule.
  - A need for established dosage by age prior to inclusion on schedule.
  - TAG members noted the two parts of the criteria and uncertainty on how to respond with one.
  - Majority of TAG members voted the criteria was met.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 1?</td>
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**Criteria 2: The vaccine containing this antigen is effective as measured by immunogenicity and population-based prevention data in Washington state**

- The TAG received presentations from Dr. Matthew Kronman (Seattle Children’s), Dr. John Dunn (Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup), and Department of Health staff.

- Key discussion points:
  - Comparing outcomes for COVID-19 vaccine to non-vaccination
  - Comparing the COVID-19 vaccine to other routine childhood immunizations
  - The TAG unanimously voted that the criteria was met

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<th>Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 2?</th>
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Criteria 3: The vaccine containing this antigen is cost effective from a societal perspective

- The TAG received a presentation from the Department of Health staff economist

- Key discussion points:
  - Equity is not currently included cost-effectiveness analyses
  - Limits on the available literature
  - Limits on the costs incorporated into such analyses (i.e., implementation costs are not considered)

- A small majority of TAG members voted no or unsure on this criteria

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<th>Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 3?</th>
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Criteria 4: Experience to date with the vaccine containing this antigen demonstrates that it is safe and has an acceptable level of side effects

- The TAG received presentations from Dr. Matthew Kronman (Seattle Children’s), Dr. John Dunn (Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup), and Department of Health staff

- Key discussion points:
  - Risk of myocarditis and MIS-C from COVID-19 vaccine versus COVID-19 infection
  - Risk of disease is higher in unvaccinated versus vaccinated
  - Other impacts of COVID-19 infection in the community, such as lost work
  - Context of the situation in which the risk is being evaluated

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- A majority of TAG members voted that the criteria was met
Criteria 5: The vaccine containing this antigen prevents disease(s) that has significant morbidity and/or mortality in at least some sub-set of the population

• The TAG received a presentation from Dr. Eric Lofgren, from Washington State University and Department of Health staff

• Key discussion points:
  • Hospitalization, morbidity, and mortality associated with COVID-19 infection
  • Compared hospitalization rates for COVID-19 to influenza
  • Limited understanding of long term COVID-19
  • Washington specific data on morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 infection
  • The TAG voted unanimously that the criteria was met

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Criteria 6: Vaccinating against this disease reduces the risk of person-to-person transmission, with transmission in a school or childcare setting or activity being given the highest priority

The TAG received a presentation from Dr. Stephen Lim, from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington and Department of Health staff.

• Key discussion points:
  
  • Impact of vaccination on transmission rates and modeling for future transmission rates
  
  • Limitation on available studies looking at transmission in school settings
  
  • Transmission from school-age children to other household members
  
  • Washington specific data on school-associated outbreaks of COVID-19
  
  • A majority of TAG members voted that the criteria was met.

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<th>Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 6?</th>
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Criteria 7: The vaccine containing this antigen is acceptable to the medical community and the public

- The TAG received a presentation from State Board of Health and Department of Health staff.

- Key discussion points:
  - Overview of medical and public health professional organization statements on vaccination against COVID-19
  - Kaiser Family Foundation nationally representative survey data on public acceptance
  - Vaccine uptake data in both the adult and pediatric population
  - A small majority of TAG members voted that the criteria was not met

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Criteria 8: *The administrative burden of delivery and tracking of vaccine containing this antigen are reasonable*

- The TAG received a presentation from State Board of Health and Department of Health staff.

- Key discussion points:
  - Review of implementation requirements (Department of Health, Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, school districts, tribes, local health jurisdictions, health care providers)
  - Utilization of the Washington State Immunization Information System
  - Public trust
  - Costs associated with implementation
  - A majority of TAG members voted that the criteria was not met

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Criteria 9: The burden of compliance for the vaccine containing this antigen is reasonable for the parent/caregiver

- The TAG received a presentation from State Board of Health and Department of Health staff.

- Key discussion points:
  - Formal and informal survey data regarding parent and caregiver burdens to getting kids vaccinated
  - Burdens that exist for vaccination may also exist for exemptions
  - A majority of the TAG voted that the criteria was not met

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Final Recommendation
Final Recommendation

• Key discussion points:
  • Uncertainty if this policy would meet its desired goals
  • Recommend vaccination against COVID-19
  • Need to build long-term trust for vaccination
  • There remain many unknowns and a need for more data
  • Burden of implementation for a COVID-19 requirement, particularly on school systems, and the need for trust by their communities

• The TAG voted not to recommend the Board initiate rulemaking to include COVID-19 in the school entry requirements.

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<th>Final Recommendation</th>
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<td>Should the group recommend to the State Board of Health that the COVID-19 vaccine be added to the state’s immunization requirements for school entry (WAC 246-105-030)?</td>
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Questions?
THANK YOU