

# **Washington State Board of Health**

TAG Recommendation: COVID19 Vaccine

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# Outline

- Review of Board authority and rule
- Review of Technical Advisory Group process
- Timeline
- Recommendation from the Technical Advisory Group

# RCW 28A.210

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

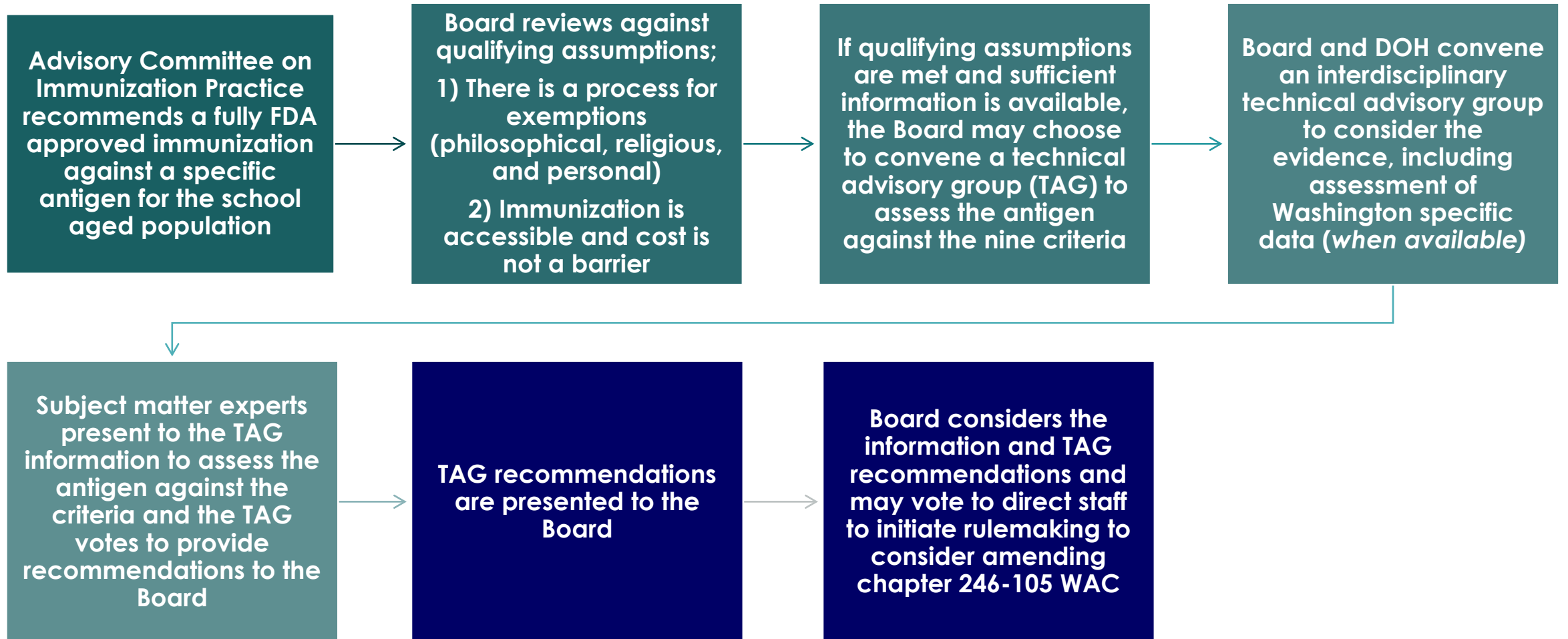
Philosophical or Personal\*

\* 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.

# Board Process



# Board Criteria

**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

	Yes	No	Unsure
Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 1?	12	2	3



# 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

	Yes	No	Unsure
Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 2?	17	0	0

# 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

	Yes	No	Unsure
Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 3?	8	2	7

***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
- A majority of TAG members voted that the criteria was met

	Yes	No	Unsure
Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 4?	15	0	2



**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

	Yes	No	Unsure
Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 5?	17	0	0

# 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.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 6?	12	1	4

# 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

	Yes	No	Unsure
Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 7?	8	7	2

# 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

	Yes	No	Unsure
Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 8?	6	6	5

***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

	Yes	No	Unsure
Does the COVID-19 vaccine meet criteria 9?	4	6	7





# **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.

Final Recommendation	Yes	No	Unsure
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)?	6	7	4

**Questions?**



# | THANK YOU