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May 18, 2017

Superintendent Cox  
Minidoka County Joint School District  
310 10th Street  
Rupert, ID



Dear Superintendent Cox:

The State Department of Education partners with the Department of Health and Welfare to assist and support Idaho schools with meeting state immunization requirements. Immunizations protect students, teachers and staff from contracting serious preventable diseases such as pertussis (whooping cough) and measles. Based on a 2016-2017 school records review, over 9,000 Idaho students were unprotected by one or more required school vaccinations; therefore, it is crucial for schools to be proactive in preventing the spread of childhood diseases. Under IDAPA 16.02.15, children without proof of immunity may be excluded from school in the event of a disease outbreak.

Idaho Code Section 39-4801 requires that schools adhere to IDAPA 16.02.15, which establishes immunization record standards for Idaho school children. In order to monitor conformity with these standards, each school is required to submit a school immunization report to the Department of Health and Welfare by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Enclosed, please find a summary of your school district's immunization report for the current school year and a comparison to the previous school year.

IDAPA 16.02.15 also establishes the criteria for the documentation of medical, religious or other exemptions to school immunizations. The Department of Health and Welfare is currently working with stakeholders to revise the Idaho school immunization exemption form. All Idaho schools will be provided with the revised form and related guidance as soon as possible.

It is our mutual goal to protect Idaho's school children from vaccine-preventable disease. Research has shown that community vaccination rates of about 94 percent are necessary to protect against the spread of highly contagious, vaccine-preventable childhood diseases<sup>1</sup>. If less than 94 percent of your students are immunized, some of them could be at risk of contracting potentially serious diseases. For guidance on how to improve immunization rates, please see the enclosed attachment on recommendations for increasing immunization rates in schools. Together, we can ensure students are healthy and protected against vaccine-preventable disease.

Sincerely,

Sherri Ybarra, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Idaho State Department of Education

Richard M. Armstrong, Director  
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

<sup>1</sup> Plotkin, S. A., Orenstein, W. A., & Offit, P. A. (2008). *Vaccines* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.), p. 1,581. China: Elsevier Inc.

# SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REPORT

## Minidoka School District

### 2016 – 2017 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR

<u>Student Records with:</u>	District Rate	Idaho Rate	Idaho's Goal
All Required Immunizations on File	93.9%	86.8%	>95.0%
Immunization Exemption on File	3.7%	6.4%	<2.0%
Conditionally Admitted Form on File	1.5%	1.0%	<1.0%
Incomplete Immunization Record on File	0.8%	5.4%	<2.0%
No Immunization Record on File	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%
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Compliant with Idaho Law	99.1%	94.2%	100.0%

### District Progress Report

*The percent of student records reported as meeting Idaho Immunization Requirements **DECREASED.***

*The percent of student records reported with all required immunizations documented **INCREASED.***

Credential Certification

### 2015-2016 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR

All Required Immunizations on File	92.8%
Immunization Exemptions on File	4.1%
Conditionally Admitted Forms on File	2.6%
Incomplete Immunization Records on File	0.5%
No Immunization Records on File	0.0%

Report Issued  
5/29/2017



# Recommendations to Improve School Immunization Rates

**IDAPA 16, Title 02, Chapter 15** requires schools to have evidence that each enrolled student is up to date on any vaccines from which they are not exempt. This applies to students in preschool through 12th grade.

Below are recommendations for schools to improve their immunization rates.

## Before School Starts, Ensure Students Meet Idaho's Immunization Requirements.

- Ensure students that are not exempt from all vaccines have complete and valid immunization records on file during registration.
- Do not enroll children in school if they are not in compliance with Idaho's immunization requirements.
- Distribute the *Parent's Guide to School Immunization Requirements* at registration. Schools may download and print this guide from [www.ImmunizeIdahoSchools.com](http://www.ImmunizeIdahoSchools.com).
- Contact your local public health district to explore the possibility of offering an immunization clinic for your school.
- Include immunization reminders with the list of back-to-school supplies, and in the school newsletter, calendar, and on the school website.
- Send postcards to parents of all 6th graders to remind them of 7th grade immunization requirements.
- Use your school's automated message system to notify parents that students must meet immunization requirements to attend school in the Fall.
- Be persistent! Parents might need multiple reminders to get their child immunized.

## After School Starts, Take Action Immediately on Records that are Incomplete.

- Follow up with parents of students with missing or invalid immunizations if a valid exemption form for the missing or invalid vaccine is not on file.
- Use IRIS, Idaho's statewide immunization registry, to easily generate parent notices for students with missing or invalid immunizations. For IRIS access, visit <https://iris.dhw.idaho.gov>.
- Exclude children from school whose records do not meet immunization requirements after repeated follow up.

