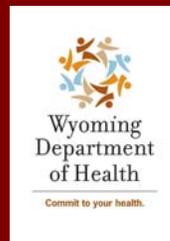


# School-Based Immunization Clinics

*A Community Initiative*



**“The greatest wealth is health.”**  
*Virgil, Classical Roman poet*

### Acknowledgements

This project was possible through the collaborative efforts of numerous individuals and organizations in Sheridan County, Wyoming, including:

- Jaycees Club of Sheridan, Wyoming
- The nursing staff at Northeast Wyoming Pediatrics
- Barry Wohl, M.D., & Suzanne Oss, M.D., Northeast Wyoming Pediatrics
- Community Health Services of Sheridan County
- Administration and school nurse at Sheridan County School District #1
- Administration and school nurse at Sheridan County School District #2
- Administration and school nurse at Sheridan County School District #3
- Sheridan County Fire Department
- Rocky Mountain Ambulance Service
- KROE broadcasting
- Sheridan College student nurses
- Community volunteers Janet Frith and Terry Lenhart

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# Role of

# Other Stakeholders

## Emergency Medical Services

- Observe students for adverse reactions following vaccination.
- Provide treatment to vaccinated students as needed.
- Interact with students and provide diversion when necessary.
- Share opinions of clinic success and modification if necessary.

## Media

- Produce and broadcast public service announcements to inform parents about upcoming school-based immunization clinics.

## School Administration

- Represent school administration to ensure adherence to protocols.
- Participate in de-briefing session.
- Discuss feasibility of future clinics.

# Role of

## Healthcare Providers

- Store and monitor vaccines prior to school clinics.
- Coordinate clinic processes.
- Collect medical supplies (e.g. vaccines, syringes, etc.) prior to school clinics.
- Administer vaccines.
- Review immunization screening questionnaires with students prior to vaccination.
- Advise students on recommended activities following vaccination.
- Enter immunization information into the Mass Immunization module of the Wyoming Immunization Registry (WyIR).
- Share opinions of clinic success and modifications if necessary.
- Facilitate de-briefing meeting with partners and plan for future school clinics.



## Why?

### Healthy Wyoming Children

Today, vaccines have advanced communicable disease prevention further than any other medical achievement. Since 2005, numerous vaccines have been introduced or modified, increasing the numbers of vaccines that are available.

Approximately \$1,100 is needed to fully vaccinate a female child from birth up to the age of 19. However, with state and federal funding, all vaccines are currently free to all children of Wyoming residents under the age of 19 years.

Many Wyoming children live in outlying rural areas where access to pediatric or immunization offices may not be available. The purpose of providing school-based immunizations clinics is to offer immunization services to those rural areas. These clinics are welcomed and appreciated by rural residents.

The ultimate goal of school-based immunization clinics is to improve adolescent immunization coverage rates and ensure compliance with immunization requirements. Parents and students should be offered the opportunity to receive both required and recommended immunizations on school premises to successfully meet that goal.

The purpose of this guide is to provide a framework for service organizations interested in coordinating school-based immunization clinics in their communities.

## Missed Opportunities

Many adolescents are not fully protected against vaccine-preventable diseases (VPD). This chart shows the percentage of children between 12 and 17 years old that are vaccinated within the U.S. as of 2008.

Vaccine	13yrs	14yrs	15yrs	16yrs	17yrs	12-17yrs
MMR	87%	90%	88%	83%	86%	87%
Hep B	89%	85%	80%	76%	77%	81%
chickenpox history	61%	61%	73%	74%	82%	70%
1 dose Varicella	73%	73%	65%	55%	46%	66%
H/O or 1 dose Var.	90%	89%	91%	88%	90%	90%
Td or Tdap	48%	57%	64%	63%	69%	60%
MCV4	11%	13%	14%	13%	7%	12%



## Role of

## School Nurses

- Mail clinic information to parents with a return date of no more than two weeks from the date of mailing.
- Collect consent forms and respond to parents' questions.
- Arrange venues for school clinics.
- Oversee school clinic operations.
- Print student immunization record to be sent home with student following vaccination.
- Request input from stakeholders and compile data to share with clinic participants.
- Update student immunization records in their cumulative school records.
- Update school computer database to reflect which immunizations were administered at the school clinic.
- Contact families who did not list a primary care physician to encourage them to establish a medical home and assist them in doing so if needed.
- Store clinic records if no medical home has been identified after this process.
- Track completion of vaccine series by students.

# Role of

## School Nurses

- Review each student's immunization record and prepare the immunization screening questionnaire and consent form to be sent out to parents prior to the clinic. (Go to School Clinic under Information for Schools and Daycares at [www.immunizewyoming.com](http://www.immunizewyoming.com) for sample forms.)
- Complete the consent form with the student's name and date of birth.
- Identify required and recommended vaccines that a student may need on the consent form.
- Provide current Vaccine Information Statements for each required and recommended vaccine that a student may need.
- Ensure that parents have completed the immunization screening questionnaire in full and have signed the consent form prior to school clinic.
- Instruct parents that they will need to share their immunization records if the school's records are incomplete.
- Inform parents about school clinics through media releases and handouts that are sent home with students.

# What?

## Adolescent Immunizations

For school-based immunization clinics to be successful, two conditions must be met:

1. a recognized need for immunizations and
2. a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian.

The state of Wyoming requires that school-aged children be protected against many vaccine-preventable diseases including: measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), polio, tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (whooping cough), and hepatitis B. Medical or religious exemptions from required immunizations may be granted by the Wyoming Department of Health on rare occasions.

Failure to properly immunize a child could result in the removal of that child from public school until vaccines are up-to-date based on current school law.

Additional adolescent vaccinations recommended by the ACIP include:

- Hepatitis A,
- Human papillomavirus (HPV),
- Influenza ("flu"),
- Meningococcal, and
- Varicella (chickenpox).

# Who?

## Wyoming Children

A school environment offers a captive audience that allows for efficient delivery of immunization services to large groups of children within a minimal amount of time.

The focus of school-based immunization clinics is to address the immunization needs of adolescents, including those not required for school participation. Recently the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) expanded adolescent immunization recommendations. In particular, offering immunizations to 6th graders capitalizes on the important transition to adolescence.

Project initiators are encouraged to be open to also offering immunizations to adults within the school system. Although adult vaccines are not offered through the Wyoming Immunization Program, vaccines can be offered for a nominal fee through private providers or public health nursing offices.

All organizations, both within and outside of healthcare, are encouraged to participate in supplementing this program's efforts by expanding services during immunization clinics.

# Role of

# Service Organizations

- Visit the school with clinic coordinator and assess the clinic area to be used.
- Assure that privacy can be maintained during the screening and immunization administration.
- Interact with students throughout the entire clinic.
- Accompany students from the classroom to the administration area if needed.
- Escort students from the administration area to the observation area and hand out age-appropriate health information and other promotional items if available.
- Monitor the amount of time that students spend in the observation area before returning to the classroom. Medical staff will indicate if this needs to be for a longer period of time.
- Escort students to restrooms when necessary.
- Staff the observation area and supply healthy snacks (e.g. juice boxes, popcorn, etc.).
- Monitor students' temperatures.
- Coordinate and facilitate meetings to plan follow-up clinics and involve other community partners.

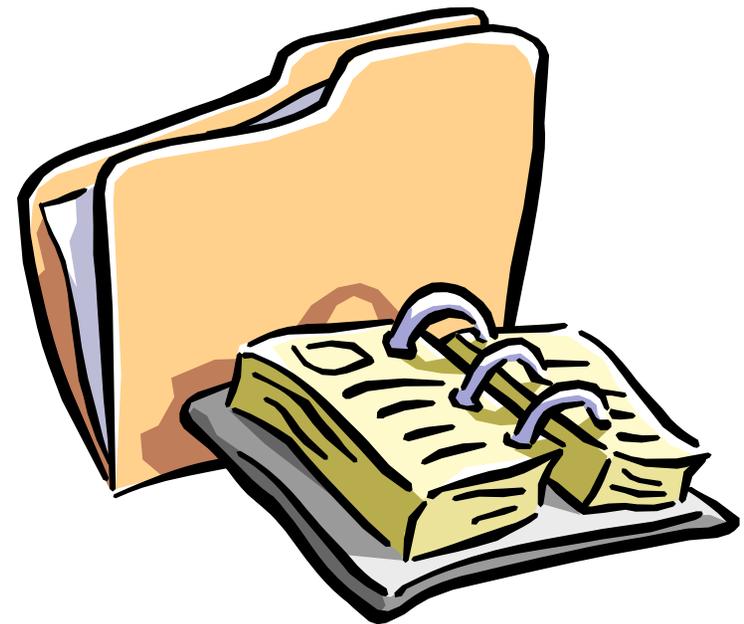
# Clinic Processes

1. Small groups of students are escorted to the clinic area where the medical charge explains what is going to happen and answer any questions students may have.
2. School nurse identifies and gives each student their signed consent form and immunization screening questionnaire. “Real-time” screening is also performed to identify recent illnesses and other issues.
3. Healthcare professional (e.g. volunteer nurse) takes the temperatures of students and records the results at the top of the signed consent forms.
4. Medical personnel (e.g. doctor, nurse practitioner, physician’s assistant) reviews screening questionnaire with the student. If cleared for vaccination, the immunization screening form questionnaire is initialed by the reviewer.
5. Student receives the immunizations indicated on the consent form, unless contraindications exist. Vaccinator completes the clinic section of the consent form.
6. Students leave the vaccination area with a volunteer, who engages them in conversation while proceeding to the observation area located away from the waiting area.
7. The student gives the consent form with the vaccination data to a data-entry person in the observation area.
8. The data-entry person enters the data into the Wyoming Immunization Registry (WyIR).
9. The medical charge talks to the group about what to expect and recommended activities following vaccination.
10. After at least 20 minutes has passed, students are discharged from the observation area to return to class. Volunteers should be available to assist with hall passes or serve as classroom escorts, per school protocol.

# When?

## Fall and spring of each school year

Some immunizations require more than one visit to complete a series. By offering school-based immunization clinics twice a year, students are more likely to complete a series of vaccines. In addition, by offering immunization clinics in schools twice a year, student are able to be caught up on missing vaccinations and transfer students can also receive the necessary immunizations to attend school.



## How?

Local service organizations should engage key members of the community to optimize success in school-based immunization clinics. Key players in these efforts should include:

- **School nurses.** School nurses play an important role in coordinating school immunization clinics. They are well-versed on the needs of students, have access to school calendars, and have the resources to encourage parents and faculty to participate in the program.
- **Healthcare professionals** (private or public). Healthcare professionals (including doctors, physicians' assistants, nurse practitioners, nursing students, and Emergency Medical Technicians) are highly invested in improving immunization coverage rates. Non-practicing medical professionals (such as retired nurses) could also contribute to the success of the clinic, by performing tasks such as screening students prior to immunization and taking and recording temperatures.
- **Volunteer organizations.** Volunteer organizations can help promote and support clinic efforts in a variety of ways.
- **Local media.** Local media contacts can help create more public awareness of community events through public service announcements featuring local stakeholders, such as school nurses.

## Pre-Clinic Planning

- Meet at least two months prior to the clinic event to discuss logistics and map out details.
- Schedule dates and identify which students should be immunized.
- Assign responsibilities and make a contact list, including names, titles, organizational affiliation, phone numbers, and email addresses.
- Designate a clinic coordinator who is responsible for ensuring that all pre-clinic details have been addressed and preparations have been made in advance.
- Notify the Wyoming Immunization Program about clinic dates and anticipated vaccine needs to ensure ample vaccine and other medical supplies are available for the clinic.

### **Tips for success to help alleviate student anxiety during the clinic:**

- Emergency medical personnel should be available in the general waiting area and in the student observation area interacting with the students.
- In the observation area, have snacks and age-appropriate handouts for students to review while in the observation area following immunization.