



# The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

The Episcopal Church in Western Washington

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## Immunization Policies for the Diocese of Olympia

*Adopted by Diocesan Council, July 2, 2020; revised June 24, 2021*

The Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Olympia has adopted the following policies.

1. All church and diocesan employees must provide proof of immunization (as described in *RCW 28A.210 and WAC 246-105-060*) on hiring as a condition of employment. A statement from a licensed physician or health care provider is acceptable evidence. In lieu of a statement, a form signed by the employee that they have received and kept up to date on mandated/required immunizations is acceptable.
2. All church and diocesan volunteers working with children or youth must also provide proof of immunization (as described in *RCW 28A.210 and WAC 246-105-060*). A statement from a licensed physician or health care provider is acceptable evidence. In lieu of a statement, a form signed by the employee that they have received and kept up to date on mandated/required immunizations is acceptable.
3. Any child or person under the age of 18 signing up for ongoing church activities – e.g., Sunday School, youth group, choir, or other activities sponsored by the church and/or any diocesan sponsored activities or events must have the parent or guardian provide evidence that each child has met state law about immunization for children and youth (*RCW 28A.210 and WAC 246-105-060*). Church registration or information forms must include this written verification from parents or guardians.
4. Vaccine-preventable diseases children must be protected against for full immunization as of May 26, 2021: Chickenpox (Varicella); Diphtheria; German measles (Rubella); Haemophilus influenzae type B disease; Hepatitis B; Measles (Rubeola); Mumps; Pneumococcal disease; Polio (Poliomyelitis); Tetanus; and Whooping cough (Pertussis). For the latest updates, refer to WAC 246-105-030.
5. All congregations are strongly encouraged to make known the policy of The Episcopal Church regarding immunization and the limitation on exemption from immunization in the congregation's website, newsletter, and other written materials as appropriate.
6. All congregations are strongly encouraged to provide information about immunization to its members, including information about free immunization opportunities in its city, county, or region. If a congregation determines that it has volunteers or participating children or youth who cannot afford to be vaccinated or otherwise prove immunization evidence because of poverty, the diocese will provide funds to pay for vaccinations or other forms of immunization by request from the congregation.
7. This policy shall be fully implemented no later than January 1, 2022.