



**Policy Council Approval Date:**  
**Performance Standard: 1302.15(e)**

**Effective Date: 6/1/2020**

## **Performance Objective:**

Community Action Partnership Head Start/ Early Head Start will comply with state law requiring all children be up to date on immunizations or that the child's parent or guardian sign a declination within 30 days of entry into the Head Start/Early Head Start Program.

Per North Dakota Department of Health:

1. A child may not be admitted to any public Head Start program operating in the State of North Dakota or be supervised through home based instructions unless the child's parent or guardian presents to the institutions authorities a certification from a licensed physician or authorized representative of the State Department of Health that the child has received age appropriate immunizations.
2. A child may enter the institution with proof from a licensed physician or authorized representative of the State Department of Health stating that the child has started receiving the required immunizations or has a written consent by the child's parent or guardian for a local health service or department to administer the needed immunization without charge or has complied with the requirement for the certificate of exception.
3. Any minor child, through the child's parents or guardian may submit to the institution authorities either a certificate from a licensed physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunizations would endanger the life or health of the child or a certificate signed by the child's parent or guardian whose religious, philosophical, or moral beliefs are opposed to such immunizations. The parent or guardian will be required to complete and sign the state vaccine exemption form. The minor child is then exempt.
4. When in the opinion of the supervising physician, or in the absence of the Health Coordinator, danger of an epidemic exists from any of the communicable diseases for which immunization is required, the exemption from immunizations against such disease may not be recognized and children not immune must be excluded from our institution until, in the opinion of the supervising physician or in the absence of the Health Coordinator the danger of the epidemic is over. The designated institution authority shall notify those parents or guardians taking legal exception to the immune requirements that their children are excluded from school during an epidemic as determined by the State Department of Health.
5. When the opinion of the supervising physician or in the absence of the Health Coordinator extenuating circumstances make it difficult or impossible to comply with immunization requirements the supervising physician or may authorize children who are not immunized to be admitted to the institution until the supervisor determines that the extenuating circumstances include a shortage of vaccine and other temporary circumstances.
6. When there is a danger of an epidemic from any of the communicable diseases for which immunization is required, those children who are not adequately immunized, including exempt children, will be excluded from school until the danger of the epidemic is over.

When a child is unable to get an immediate appointment for immunizations, the parent will provide Head Start or Early Head Start with a record of the child's upcoming appointment, either by bringing it in to the center or having the clinic fax it to the center. The child may attend at the center or home visits will continue during the original 30 days of the parent/guardian working to get the child up to date on their immunizations. If the child misses the scheduled appointment for any reason, that child will be excluded from the program

until the immunizations have been received. If chronic absenteeism persists (the child has been absent from the center or has not made a visit with their home visitor for 30 days) the child's slot must be considered an enrollment vacancy.