



## **Vaccine Reimbursement HB 3276**

Meningitis outbreaks have occurred recently in 2015, in Eugene at the University of Oregon (UO) and in 2017 in Corvallis at Oregon State University (OSU). Meningitis is a dangerous disease, and the UO outbreak resulted in hospitalizations and one death. In each case, the university has quickly responded by working with public health agencies to quickly vaccinate thousands of students.

In some instances, insurers have refused to reimburse the university for the cost of vaccinations. Some require that vaccines be administered by a primary care or in-network physician, even if that provider is hundreds of miles away. Reimbursement was also denied due to the specific vaccine's status as a recently approved drug.

Faced with an urgent health crisis, it is unreasonable to expect people to travel to their primary care or in-network physician, or to deny coverage for FDA-approved vaccines. While Oregon cannot place requirements on insurers licensed out of state, we can shore up requirements for insurers licensed in Oregon.

Objective:

**Ensure reimbursement of costs associated with vaccinations in urgent health situations.**

Key points:

- Requires insurers to cover FDA-approved vaccinations when Oregon Health Authority (OHA) deems them necessary to prevent the spread of disease.
- Requires insurers to cover or reimburse for vaccinations in urgent health situations.
- Directs OHA to convene workgroup with key stakeholders to make recommendations to improve student healthcare coverage including health insurance and pharmacy (including vaccine) benefit.

Questions or need more information?

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