February 1, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of the students at Our Savior’s Lutheran Preschool,

We are thankful for the opportunity to share with you in this significant part of your child’s life. Early childhood development and care for families is a big part of our mission and we are glad to be part of yours!

**There have been some important changes in Washington State law in recent months. These changes require us to give careful attention to the status of immunization for each and every one of our students.**

As of July 28, 2019, a new Washington State law passed that removed the personal and philosophical option to exempt children from the MMR vaccine required for school, preschool, and childcare attendance. This means that all children must receive the MMR vaccines unless they obtain a medical or religious exemption. Other vaccinations remain required as well, but may be exempted for personal, religious, or medical reasons.

 We are obligated to comply with the new law and plan on doing so. However, we also want to allow parents of children who need vaccination the time to consult with their physicians and be vaccinated.

The new law mandates that Our Savior’s Lutheran Preschool maintain accurate records of immunizations and any medical/religious exemptions and report them to the Department of Health each year. You can find more information about the immunization requirements at: [www.doh.wa.gov/SCCI](http://www.doh.wa.gov/SCCI).

**One dose of MMR is required for all children age one year and older to attend childcare or preschool.** Two doses of MMR vaccine are required for all children in childcare who are students in kindergarten through 12th grade. You can find more information at the WA Department of Health exemption law change web page, including FAQs: [www.doh.wa.gov/mmrexemption](http://www.doh.wa.gov/mmrexemption).

One of the main reasons for the change is to protect the youngest among us. Children under the age of 1 year are too young to receive the vaccine but remain vulnerable to MMR disease. Older sisters and brothers may inadvertently be exposed to and bring home the MMR disease and place their younger and vulnerable siblings at risk.

**Going forward into the 2021-2022 school year we will need to have your immunization forms completed at the time of registration.**

 If you have any questions, you can contact Debbie Cooper, Our Savior’s Lutheran Preschool Director at: 425- 252- 0413 Ext. 113 or debbie@oslc-everett.org