

Religious Exemptions

Oregon recognizes parent-signed exemptions from vaccine requirements for religious reasons. “Religion” is defined in Oregon Administrative Rule **333-050-0010** as any system of beliefs, practices or ethical values.

To claim a religious exemption, a parent must check the appropriate boxes and sign the back of the Certificate of Immunization Status, available from your child’s school or child care facility. An exemption may be claimed for one or more vaccines or for all vaccines. Listing a vaccination history on the front of the Certificate of Immunization Status will not affect a parent’s ability to claim an exemption.

In case of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease in a community, the county health department has the legal authority to exclude from school or child care attendance any child who has not been appropriately immunized, including children with a religious or medical exemption.

Medical Exemptions

Oregon allows medical exemptions for children who have a medical condition that contraindicates vaccination or for children who are immune to a disease because of natural infection. Only physicians or county health departments may sign a medical exemption. Parents may sign a statement that a child has had chickenpox disease.

Medical exemptions must be in a letter from a physician or local health department supplementing the Certificate of Immunization Status. The letter must include the child’s name and birth date, vaccine(s) affected, the condition that contraindicates vaccination or the diagnosis or lab test results that prove immunity, as well as the physician’s or local health department representative’s signature and contact information.

In case of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease in a community, the county health department has the legal authority to exclude from school or childcare attendance any child who has not been appropriately immunized, including children with a religious or medical exemption. Children who are immune to a disease because of natural infection are considered protected.