



## Frequently Asked Questions Senate Bill 895 for Registered Child Cares

### What did Senate Bill 895 change about immunizations for registered child care facilities?

Old religious exemptions to immunization signed before March 1, 2014, are no longer accepted. Children who have an old religious exemption on file with you will need new documentation of immunizations, a medical exemption, or a nonmedical exemption.

### How do I get new documentation for children with old religious exemptions?

1. Identify children with a religious exemption signed prior to March 1, 2014.
2. Contact the parents to let them know that you need updated documentation for their child. Include a new Certificate of Immunization Status form for the parent to complete. A sample letter for parents is available at:  
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Documents/SchSB895parentletter.docx>

### What are the options for parents of children with old religious exemptions?

- **If the child has received the vaccines**, have the parent write the dates on a Certificate of Immunization Status form and turn in the form to you.
- **If the parent wants a nonmedical exemption for the child**, the parent needs to complete the new process and turn in two forms:
  1. Certificate of Immunization Status—have the parent fill in the dates of any vaccines the child has received, fill out the nonmedical exemption section by marking the vaccines for which they want the exemption, and then sign and date the exemption.  
AND
  2. Vaccine Education Certificate—tell the parent to turn in this certificate that they will receive after completing the required

education about immunizations from a health care practitioner or the from the online vaccine education module.

If parents need more information about nonmedical exemptions, they can go to [www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption](http://www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption)

- **If the parent needs a medical exemption for the child**, the parent needs to submit a statement from the physician to you. Send a copy of the medical exemption to the local health department for approval. They will tell you whether the medical exemption is accepted or denied, whether it is permanent or temporary. Temporary medical exemptions will also have an expiration date for when they need to be reviewed.

## **General Questions about Immunizations for Registered Child Cares**

### **Are all schools and child care programs required to track shots?**

Yes, shots are required for attendance at all schools in Oregon. Shots are also required for attendance at all preschools, Head Start programs, and registered or certified childcare facilities. Nearly every place that provides care for a child outside the home requires parents to provide immunization information.

### **What shots are required for school and child care attendance in Oregon?**

Oregon requires immunization against eleven vaccine-preventable diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Polio
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A
- Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type B) – only for children under 5 years of age

## **What other shots are recommended?**

There are additional vaccines that children are not required for school or child care attendance, however experts agree that children should have them for optimal protection. These vaccines include pneumococcal, influenza and rotavirus. Recommended ages and schedules vary by vaccine.

## **Why are shots required?**

Shots provide protection against contracting serious diseases to the person who receives them. Shots also provide protection to classmates and teachers by reducing the number of people vulnerable to these diseases. When enough people are vaccinated, these diseases tend to stop circulating. Outbreaks of disease occur more frequently in schools and programs that serve young children.

## **How does a parent prove that their child has had shots?**

Give the parent a Certificate of Immunization Status form to complete with the dates of their child's shots. Parents or guardians can sign the Certificate of Immunization Status; there is no need to have it signed by the child's doctor or medical provider. A parent may also bring you a copy of their child's immunization record that was printed from ALERT IIS or a copy of the parent's record of the shots received for their child.

## **Where can I get Certificate of Immunization Status forms?**

You can print the form at the website:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Documents/SchCISform.pdf>

with instructions in English at:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Documents/SchCISInsEng.pdf>

and instructions in Spanish at:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Documents/SchCISInsSp.pdf>

You can also contact your local county health department. They will provide the forms to you at no charge. If you have difficulties getting the forms you need, please call (971) 673-0300.

### **What if a child has had Varicella (chickenpox) disease?**

If a child has had varicella disease, a parent may check “yes” in the history of disease box in the varicella section of the Certificate of Immunization Status. An estimated month and year is also helpful, but is not required.

### **Where can a parent take a child for shots?**

Most pediatric and family practice clinics offer shots. If the child has a regular medical provider, the parent can call their office for an appointment to get shots. If the child doesn't have a regular provider, the parent may contact the local county health department, or call 211. They will be able to help find a clinic where the child can get shots.

### **Does Oregon allow exemptions?**

Yes, Oregon allows two kinds of exemptions, medical and nonmedical. A medical exemption must be signed by a physician or the local county health department. A nonmedical exemption is signed by a parent or guardian with an attached Vaccine Education Certificate verifying completion of education about immunizations, either from a health care practitioner or the online vaccine education module. For more information about nonmedical exemptions, go to [www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption](http://www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption).

### **Do I need to report?**

It is important to keep on file an up-to-date Certificate of Immunization Status forms, but no report to the local health department is required for registered child care programs. Reports are required from certified child care programs.

### **Have more questions?**

Call your local county health department, or call the Oregon Immunization Program at (971) 673-0300.