



Immunization Exemptions

Information about Vermont's Childcare and School Immunization Exemptions

Vermont's Immunization Rule, adopted pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 1123, requires that before entry, children/students must have all the required immunizations unless exempt for medical or religious reasons.

- Medical exemptions require the signature of a health care practitioner authorized to prescribe vaccines on the state-supplied [Medical Exemption](#) form.
- To claim a [religious exemption](#), it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to print, sign and return the form to the school **annually**, upon school entry. Renewal is not assumed, and failure to provide documentation may result in exclusion from school.

Before signing the religious exemption form, a parent/guardian must attest to holding religious beliefs opposed to immunizations and acknowledge review of [evidence-based educational material](#) provided by the Vermont Department of Health.

Any exemption claimed may result in exclusion from child care or school during a disease outbreak if it is determined that the child/student is at risk for getting that disease and transmitting it to others. The length of time a child/student may be excluded depends on the disease and can range from several days to more than a month.

Children/students in the process of receiving all required vaccines consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) catch-up immunization schedule timeline, may be provisionally admitted without an exemption if the child/student has a scheduled appointment to receive the missing vaccine(s).

The Provisional Admittance section of the [Notice of Missing Immunizations](#) form must be signed by a health care provider and submitted by the parent/guardian to the child care/ school upon entry. The period of provisional admittance is in accordance with the CDC's catch-up immunization schedule but may not exceed six months. Long term provisional admittance is not allowed.

More information and forms can be found on the Department of Health website:
<http://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/immunization>