

# EXEMPTIONS 101



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## What is a religious exemption?

Religious exemptions are used when a parent has a sincerely held belief that prohibits their child/children from receiving vaccinations.

## How Do I Get an exemption?

Because each state sets their own laws, every process is different for each state.

It can also depend on the school. Your school may have their own form for you to complete.

# Exemption Form

# Missouri Requirements

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES  
RELIGIOUS IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTION

Required under the Missouri State immunization law (Section 167.181, RSMo) of children attending public, private, and parochial or parish schools.

We strongly encourage you to immunize your child, but ultimately the decision is yours. Please discuss any concerns you have with a trusted healthcare provider or call the immunization coordinator at your local or state health department. Your final decision affects not only the health of your child, but also the rest of your family, the health of your child's friends and their families, classmates, neighbors, and community.

Unimmunized children have a greater risk of contracting and spreading vaccine-preventable diseases to babies who are too young to be fully immunized and those who cannot be immunized due to medical conditions. In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease within a particular facility, children who are not fully immunized or do not have documented laboratory evidence of immunity shall not be allowed to attend school or day care until the local health authority declares the designated outbreak of health emergency has ended.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT NAME OF CHILD (PRINT OR TYPE)

SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM RECEIVING THE FOLLOWING CHECKED IMMUNIZATION(S) BECAUSE IMMUNIZATIONS VIOLATE MY RELIGIOUS BELIEFS:

DIPHTHERIA     HEPATITIS B     MMR     PERTUSSIS     POLIO

TETANUS     VARICELLA     OTHER

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (PRINT OR TYPE)    PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE    DATE

MO 980-1723 (4-12)    Imm.P.11A

**A student shall be exempted from the immunization requirements of this rule as provided in section 167.181, RSMo, if one (1) parent or guardian objects in writing to the school administrator that immunization of that student violates his/her religious beliefs.**

**This exemption must be provided on an original Department of Health and Senior Services' form Imm.P.11A, and shall be signed by the parent or guardian and placed on file with the school immunization health record. The Imm.P.11A form is incorporated by reference in this rule as published April 2012 by the Department of Health and Senior Services and may be obtained by contacting a medical provider, local public health agency, or the department's Bureau of Immunization Assessment and Assurance at PO Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570, or by calling 800-219-3224.**

## Exemption Template

Dear (NAME OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR),

This letter is to notify you that I am objecting in writing to all vaccines on the CDC schedule, pursuant to section 3 of RSMO 167.181. My child, NAME OF CHILD, is exempted from receiving the following vaccines (but not limited to) because vaccines violate our deeply held religious beliefs:

HepB, DTaP, Hib, PV13, IPV, IIV, MMR, & VAR

Please enter this document into my child's confidential medical files.

Sincerely,

Signature (both parents if possible)

Printed name

Date

**This rule does not incorporate any subsequent amendments or additions. This need not be renewed annually.**

**This is the only requirement for an exemption.**

**If you already have a physical on file, you can submit an exemption statement at any time.**

**I have included a few examples of statements you can use.**