

# EXEMPTIONS 101



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[Maryland Exemption Form](#)

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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

# Maryland Requirements

COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATE SECTION BELOW IF THE CHILD IS EXEMPT FROM VACCINATION ON MEDICAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUNDS. ANY VACCINATION(S) THAT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SHOULD BE ENTERED ABOVE.

**MEDICAL CONTRAINDICATION:**

Please check the appropriate box to describe the medical contraindication.

This is a:  Permanent condition OR  Temporary condition until \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The above child has a valid medical contraindication to being vaccinated at this time. Please indicate which vaccine(s) and the reason for the contraindication, \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Provider / LHD Official

**RELIGIOUS OBJECTION:**

I am the parent/guardian of the child identified above. Because of my bona fide religious beliefs and practices, I object to any vaccine(s) being given to my child. This exemption does not apply during an emergency or epidemic of disease.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MDH Form 896 (Formerly DHMH 896)  
Rev. 5/21

Center for Immunization  
[www.health.maryland.gov/imm](http://www.health.maryland.gov/imm)

Using the form provided by the Maryland Department of Health, a student whose parent or guardian objects to immunization on the ground that the immunization conflicts with the parent's or guardian's bona fide religious beliefs and practices is exempt from the requirement to present a physician's certificate of immunization in order that the student be admitted to school.

The parent/guardian will select religious exemption and sign their name on the state immunization certificate.