

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

Mississippi Requirements

Religious Exemption Request

INSTRUCTIONS

- The child's parent or guardian must complete and sign the Religious Exemption Request Form indicating the vaccines for which the child will be exempted.
- Submit the completed form to the County Health Department (**appointment is required**). For information regarding County Health Department hours of operation go to www.msdh.ms.gov and to schedule an appointment call 855-767-0170.
- Additional steps will be completed at the County Health Department. For more about the process visit www.msdh.ms.gov.
- The completed Religious Exemption Request is submitted to the State Epidemiologist or Deputy State Epidemiologist for signature, and a copy is sent by mail to the school and the parent/guardian at the addresses indicated below.

Date of Request _____ Name of School/Child Care Facility: _____ City and County: _____

School Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Name of Child _____ Date of Birth: _____
Last First MI

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone Number: _____
Last First MI

Address: _____ Email: _____
Street City State Zip

Indicate the exemption status for each vaccine by checking the correct box in the table below (an exemption status is required for each vaccine):

Vaccine	Permanent	No Exemption
DTaP		
Hepatitis B		
Hib*		
IPV		

*For childcare only.

Vaccine	Permanent	No Exemption
MMR		
Pneumococcal		
Tdap**		
Varicella		

**For 7th grade entry only.

I, _____, am requesting a religious exemption from the above vaccines for my child, _____.

- I have been advised that not vaccinating my child with the vaccination(s) specified above can endanger their life or health, and the life or health of other children; the religious reasons for not vaccinating my child outweigh the advice I have been given regarding any risk of death or disability to my child or other children from the vaccine preventable disease.
- I have been advised that if any vaccine-preventable diseases for which my child has not been adequately immunized are occurring in or threatening to occur in the community, my child will, for the safety and benefit of him/herself and other children, be excluded from day care/school until the infectious disease is no longer present or is no longer a threat to the safety and welfare of my child or other children in the day care/school.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Location of County Health Department: _____

<p>Verification of Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Exemption Request completed and signed by parent/guardian. Parent/guardian has viewed Vaccine Education video and has been given the chance to ask questions. I have discussed the benefits and risks of immunizations with the parent/guardian as a condition for exemption. I have informed the parent/guardian that if any vaccine-preventable diseases for which the child has not been adequately immunized are occurring in or threatening to occur in the community, the child will, for the safety and benefit of him/herself and other children, be excluded from day care/school until the infectious disease is no longer present or is no longer a threat to the safety and welfare of the child or other children in the day care/school. <p>Signature of Health Department Nurse: _____ Date: _____ County of Health Department: _____ Phone: _____</p>

This document should be submitted through intraoffice mail to: Office of Immunizations MSDH Central Office in Jackson, Mississippi

To request a religious exemption from one or more required vaccinations for Mississippi school entry, the parent or guardian must complete the **MSDH Religious Exemption Request (Form 139-R)** and submit to the County Health Department (**appointment is required: 855-767-0170**).

A review of all religious exemption requests for completeness will be conducted at the Mississippi State Department of Health. Complete Religious exemption requests submitted per MSDH policy will be accepted and signed by the State Epidemiologist or Deputy State Epidemiologist.

Once the request is reviewed and accepted, a **Certificate of Medical/Religious Exemption (Form 122)** will be issued. Only the **Certificate of Medical/Religious Exemption (Form 122)** signed and dated by the State Epidemiologist or Deputy State Epidemiologist provides official, documented proof that a child has been issued a medical/religious exemption by MSDH. The original **Certificate of Medical/Religious Exemption (Form 122)** will be housed at MSDH with a copy mailed to the parent and the daycare or school indicated on the **Religious Exemption Request Form**.