

<p>Perry County Health Department</p>  <p>Public Health</p> <p>Clinical Services</p> <p>Standard Operating Procedure Manual</p>	Immunizations	
	Immunization Exemption Request	
	Adopted:	04/19/2022
	Revised:	

BACKGROUND:

Children attending day care, preschool, public, private, and parochial or parish schools who are not fully immunized and are not in-progress (state form Imm.P.14) are required to have a medical, religious (grades k-12), or parent/guardian (daycare/preschool) exemptions on file with the daycare/preschool administrator (RSMo 210.003) or school administrator (RSMo 167.181) as required under Missouri State Immunization Law. Both RSMo 210.003 and RSMo 167.181 state this objection must be given in writing.

While state statute, cited above, provides a broad overview of what is required, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services can promulgate rules to further define the requirements in these statutes. These rules can be found in the Missouri Code of State Regulations and are cited below.

19 CSR 20-28.040 of the Missouri Code of State Regulations, in regards to day care required immunizations, states “that a child who has not completed all appropriate immunizations may enroll if ... the parent or guardian has signed and placed on file with the day care administrator a statement of exemption. ... A parent or guardian exemption, by which a child shall be exempted from the requirements of this rule if one (1) parent or guardian files a written objection to immunization with the day care administrator. The Department of Health and Senior Services’ form Imm.P.11 shall be signed by the parent or guardian and placed on file with the immunization record of each child with a parental exemption. The parental exemption must be renewed annually. The Imm.P.11 form is incorporated by reference in this rule as published July 2010 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”

19 CSR 20-28.010 of the Missouri Code of State Regulations, in regards to religious exemptions, states “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.”

Missouri Statutes and Regulations Regarding Immunizations can be found at:
<https://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/immunizations/laws.php>

PURPOSE:

1. To establish guidelines for providing parents/guardians religious and philosophical immunizations exemptions for child care and school aged children as required under Missouri Law.
2. To create a system that allows the Perry County Health Department to maintain its duty as a local public health agency and stay in compliance with requirements and best practices under various programs, MOUs, MOAs, and contracts with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior

Services to ensure vaccines for an individual's age are offered, education is provided, and documentation is maintained when a vaccine is refused by the individual or their parent/guardian.

PROCEDURE:

Different State forms are issued depending on whether a child is in-progress, needs a parent/guardian exemption, or a religious exemption. The following procedure of the Perry County Health Department will apply to the distribution of both the parent/guardian exemption and the religious exemption. Medical exemptions for immunizations are not provided by the Perry County Health Department.

1. When an individual inquires about an immunization exemption, they will be informed they can receive that at the Perry County Health Department (PCHD) or from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services by calling 573-751-6124 or emailing Immunization@health.mo.gov
2. An individual wishing to obtain an exemption from PCHD will be informed of our process, which can also be found online at <https://www.perrycountyhealth.com/>.
3. While appointments are preferred to ensure decreased wait times, walk-ins for exemptions will be allowed Monday through Thursday. If a walk-in occurs, they will be placed on the schedule at the next available opportunity around those who have made an appointment. No child is required to attend with their parent/guardian.
4. Documentation to be included in the packet for those seeking an exemption is attached to this procedure and will include the following:
 - a. 'Religious Exemption: What parents need to know' OR "Parent/Guardian Exemption: What parents of children in child care need to know' from the Missouri DHSS
 - b. 'Record of Vaccine Declination in the Medical Office' from the Immunization Action Coalition'
5. Upon arrival to the Health Department:
 - a. A packet, described above, will be given to the parent/guardian. Staff will ask for the child's vaccination record and/or the child's name and date of birth to verify which vaccines the child is due for per vaccination requirements and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. All VIS will be pulled for any vaccines for which a child is due and given to parent.
 - b. When staff is available, the parent will be asked if they have any questions and/or would like to speak to a nurse. One-on-one consultation will occur, if requested. Paperwork for documentation of refusal will be completed. The individual may be taken to a private area of the waiting room or health department to complete paperwork, if privacy or HIPAA compliance is a concern. The appropriate state form will be given to the parent/guardian with the child's name and vaccines they wish to be exempted from marked on the form.
 - c. A copy of 'Record of Vaccine Declination' will be kept by PCHD in child's immunization record.

Exemption forms will only be provided to Perry County Citizens.



PARENT/GUARDIAN EXEMPTION

WHAT PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE NEED TO KNOW

Immunizations are the best protection against serious diseases. Vaccines are safe and effective and were developed to protect individuals from dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases.

Choosing not to immunize a child greatly increases the risk of getting serious diseases like pertussis, measles, mumps and chickenpox that can cause severe complications such as heart failure; difficulty breathing and swallowing; lung and liver infections; brain swelling and damage; paralysis; meningitis; deafness; liver problems; and bleeding disorders.

Children who are not immunized can transmit vaccine-preventable diseases throughout the community to babies who are too young to be fully immunized or to others who cannot be immunized for medical reasons. Exposure to any vaccine-preventable disease could be fatal.

Actively choosing not to immunize a child by claiming an exemption is a parent's right; however, it carries significant responsibility. To protect inadequately vaccinated individuals and the entire community, unimmunized children could be excluded from child care during disease outbreaks. This can cause hardship for the child and parent. No exceptions are made, regardless of the circumstances.

Claiming an exemption represents a parent or guardian's objection to immunizing against vaccine-preventable diseases.

An exemption form can be obtained from the local health department and filed for selected vaccines or for all vaccines. Parents and guardians should indicate which vaccines are included on the Parent / Guardian Exemption. The exemption must be completed and filed with the child care center administrator annually.

It is unlawful for any child to attend child care unless the child has been immunized or unless the parent or guardian has signed and filed a Parent / Guardian Exemption.

Immunizations may save your child's life!

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RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Immunizations are the best protection against serious diseases. Vaccines are safe and effective and were developed to protect individuals from dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases.

Choosing not to immunize a child greatly increases the risk of getting serious diseases like pertussis, measles, mumps and chickenpox that can cause severe complications such as heart failure; difficulty breathing and swallowing; brain damage; and deafness.

Children who are not immunized can transmit vaccine-preventable diseases throughout the community to babies who are too young to be fully immunized or to others who cannot be immunized for medical reasons. Exposure to any vaccine-preventable disease could be life-threatening.

Actively choosing not to immunize a child by claiming a religious exemption is a parent's right; however, it carries significant responsibility. To protect inadequately vaccinated individuals and the entire community, unimmunized children could be excluded from school during disease outbreaks. This can cause hardship for the child and parent. No exceptions are made, regardless of the circumstances.

Claiming a religious exemption represents a parent or guardian's belief that the family's religious preference does not support immunizing against vaccine-preventable diseases.

A religious exemption can be filed for selected vaccines or for all vaccines. Parents and guardians should indicate which vaccines are included on the Religious Immunization Exemption. The Religious Immunization Exemption card 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.

It is unlawful for any child to attend school unless the child has been adequately immunized or unless the parent or guardian has signed and filed a Religious Immunization Exemption.

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Record of Vaccine Declination in the Medical Office

...not for use as a form to exempt an individual from immunization requirements.

I am the parent/guardian of the child named at the bottom of this form. My healthcare provider has recommended that my child be vaccinated against the diseases indicated below. I have been given a copy of the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) that explains the benefits and risks of receiving each of the vaccines recommended for my child. I have carefully reviewed and considered all of the information given to me. However, I have decided not to have my child vaccinated at this time. I have read and acknowledge the following:

- I understand that some vaccine-preventable diseases (e.g., measles, mumps, pertussis [whooping cough]) are infecting unvaccinated U.S. children, resulting in many hospitalizations and even deaths.
- I understand that though vaccination has led to a dramatic decline in the number of U.S. cases of the diseases listed below, some of these diseases are quite common in other countries and can be brought to the U.S. by international travelers. My child, if unvaccinated, could easily get one of these disease while traveling or from a traveler.
- I understand that my unvaccinated child could spread disease to another child who is too young to be vaccinated or whose medical condition, such as leukemia, other forms of cancer, or immune system problems, prevents them from being vaccinated. This could result in long-term complications and even death for the other child.
- I understand that if every parent exempted their child from vaccination, these diseases would return to our community in full force.
- I understand that my unvaccinated child may not be protected by “herd” or “community” immunity (i.e., the degree of protection that is the result of having most people in a population vaccinated against a disease).
- I understand that some vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and pertussis are extremely infectious and have been known to infect unvaccinated people living in highly vaccinated populations.

- I understand that if my child is not vaccinated and consequently becomes infected, he or she could experience serious consequences, such as severe pneumonia, hospitalization, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, deafness, and death. Many children left intentionally unvaccinated have suffered severe health consequences as a result of their parents’ decision not to vaccinate them.
- I understand that my child may be excluded from his or her child care facility, school, sports events, or other organized activities during disease outbreaks. This means that I could miss many days of work to stay home with my child.
- I understand that the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all recommend preventing diseases through vaccination.

Vaccine / Disease	VIS given (✓)	Vaccine recommended by doctor or nurse (Dr./Nurse initials)	I decline this vaccination for my child (Initials of parent/guardian)
Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP)			
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)			
Hepatitis A (HepA)			
Hepatitis B (HepB)			
Human papillomavirus (HPV)			
Influenza			
Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)			
Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)			
Meningococcal B (MenB)			
Varicella (Var)			
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)			
Polio, inactivated (IPV)			
Rotavirus (RV)			
Tetanus-diphtheria (Td)			
Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap)			

After discussion with my provider who recommends these vaccines, I acknowledge that I am declining to have my child vaccinated against one or more diseases listed above. I have placed my initials in the table above to indicate the vaccine(s) I am declining. I understand that I can change my decision in the future and have my child vaccinated.

CHILD'S NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

DOCTOR/NURSE SIGNATURE

DATE

Additional Information for Healthcare Professionals about IAC’s “Record of Vaccine Declination in the Medical Office”

Unfortunately, some parents will decide not to give their child some vaccines. For healthcare providers who want to assure that these parents fully understand the consequences of their decision, the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) has produced a form titled “Record of Vaccine Declination in the Medical Office.” IAC’s form, which accompanies this page of additional information, facilitates and documents the discussion that a healthcare professional can have with parents about the risks of not having their child immunized before the child leaves the medical setting. Your use of IAC’s form demonstrates the importance you place on timely and complete vaccination, focuses the parents’ attention on the unnecessary risk for which they are accepting responsibility, and may encourage a vaccine-hesitant parent to accept your recommendations. According to an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) survey on immunization practices, almost all pediatricians reported that when faced with parents who refuse vaccination, they attempt to educate parents regarding the importance of immunization and document the refusal in the patient’s medical record.¹

Recommendations from the child’s healthcare provider about a vaccine can strongly influence a parent’s final vaccination decision.² Most parents trust their children’s doctor for vaccine-safety information (76% endorsed “a lot of trust”), according to researchers from the University of Michigan.³ Similarly, analyses of the 2009 Health-

Styles Survey found that the vast majority of parents (81.7%) name their child’s doctor or nurse as the most important source that helped them make decisions about vaccinating their child.⁴ Gust and colleagues found that the advice of their children’s healthcare provider was the main factor in changing the minds of parents who had been reluctant to vaccinate their children or who had delayed their children’s vaccinations.⁵ Vaccine-hesitant parents who felt satisfied with their pediatricians’ discussion of vaccination most often chose vaccination for their child.⁶

All parents and patients should be informed about the risks and benefits of vaccination. This can be facilitated by providing the appropriate Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for each vaccine to the parent or legal representative, which is a requirement under federal law when vaccines are to be given. When parents refuse one or more recommended vaccines, document that you provided the VIS(s), and have the parent initial and sign the vaccine refusal form. Keep the form in the patient’s medical record. Revisit the immunization discussion at each subsequent appointment. Healthcare providers may want to flag the charts of unimmunized or partially immunized children to be reminded to revisit the immunization discussion. Flagging also alerts the provider about missed immunizations when evaluating illness in children, especially in young children with fever of unknown origin.

What do others say about documentation of vaccine declination?

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): “The AAP encourages documentation of the health care provider’s discussion with parents about the serious risks of what could happen to an unimmunized or under-immunized child....For parents who refuse one or more recommended immunizations, document your conversation and the provision of the VIS(s), have a parent sign the *Refusal to Vaccinate* form, and keep the form in the patient’s medical record.”⁷

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO): “To address the risk of VPD [vaccine-preventable disease], states should consider adopting more rigorous standards for non-medical vaccine exemptions that require parents to demonstrate that they have made a conscious, concerted, and informed decision in requesting these exemptions for their children. An example of such a standard might

include a requirement for parents to complete a form that explicitly states the grounds for the exemption and requires them to acknowledge awareness of the disease-specific risks associated with not vaccinating their child(ren).”⁸

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO): NACCHO encourages various steps be taken to limit non-medical exemptions to school immunization requirements. “For individuals requesting [non-medical] exemptions, (1) require documentation from a medical provider regarding the refusal to vaccinate and consultation pertaining to risks; (2) require consultation and signature by the local health department for non-medical exemptions; or (3) implement mandatory education sessions and require acknowledgement of risk or notarized documentation of non-medical exemptions for parents, guardians, or student 18 years and older about the importance of immunization and the impact of refusing immunizations.”⁹

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