

Nonmedical Vaccine Exemptions: Information for Parents and Families

(Updated May, 2014)

Students in schools, child cares, preschools, and Head Start programs in Oregon need vaccines. By far, most parents vaccinate their children. But some parents claim exemptions to vaccines.

Starting March 1, 2014, parents must receive education on the benefits and risks before signing a new nonmedical exemption to required vaccines. Parents can:

1. Receive education from a healthcare practitioner. The practitioner will sign a Vaccine Education Certificate.

OR

2. View the online vaccine education module at www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption.
Print the Vaccine Education Certificate at the end of the module.

Complete the nonmedical exemption section of the Certificate of Immunization Status form for your child. You can get the Certificate of Immunization Status at your child's school or child care. Turn in the completed Vaccine Education Certificate and the Certificate of Immunization Status to the school or child care.

[Click here for a graphic of the process that parents will follow to claim a nonmedical exemption.](#)

Or visit: www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption

Visit our website for more information about school required vaccines at: <http://1.usa.gov/OregonSchool>, or talk to your healthcare practitioner.

Things to Note

- Any exemption already on file at a school or child care prior to March 1st is still in effect. You will not need to renew the exemption unless your child changes child care, enters kindergarten, or a new exemption is requested.
- Some healthcare practitioners may choose not to provide a Vaccine Education Certificate. Check with your child's clinic.
- If you have more than one child for whom you want an exemption, you need a Vaccine Education Certificate for each child.
- If printing a Vaccine Education Certificate from the online module, be sure to type your name on the certificate. Certificates without a parent name printed will not be accepted by the school or child care. Make sure you enter your name, not your child's name.

- The first and last name fields for the online Vaccine Education Certificate are limited to 15 characters. The certificate is valid even if your entire name does not fit. The certificate will appear slightly fuzzy when printed.
- Keep a copy of the Vaccine Education Certificate for your own records.
- The date on the Vaccine Education Certificate and the Certificate of Immunization Status must be within 12 months of the date you enroll your child in school or child care.
- Listing a vaccination history for your child does not affect your right to a nonmedical exemption. We encourage you to document any vaccinations your child has received so the Certificate of Immunization Status is accurate.



OREGON PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Oregon Immunization Program



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