

# MEDICAL EXEMPTION

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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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.

However, some children cannot be immunized for medical reasons. Claiming a medical exemption represents a physician's determination that the child is allergic to some immunization components, has an immune deficiency or has an illness such as cancer.

Unimmunized children are at greater risk of exposure to vaccine-preventable diseases, some of which can be life-threatening. To protect those who cannot be vaccinated and the entire community, unimmunized children could be excluded from school and child care during disease outbreaks. Exclusion from care can cause a hardship for the child and parent, however no exceptions are made, regardless of the circumstances.

A student shall be exempted from one or more of the immunization requirements, upon signed certification by a licensed doctor of medicine (MD), doctor of osteopathy (DO), or his or her designee indicating that either the immunization would seriously endanger the student's health or life, or the student has documentation of disease or laboratory evidence of immunity to the disease.

The Medical Immunization Exemption form can be obtained for printing by clicking the button below. The form must be placed on file with the school immunization health record or child care facility.

## IMMUNIZATIONS MAY SAVE YOUR CHILD'S LIFE!

**CLICK HERE**  
to continue to the  
exemption form



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**

**Bureau of Immunizations**