

SB20-163

School Entry Immunization Requirement



CO L O R A D O

**Disease Control & Environmental
Epidemiology Division**

Department of Public Health & Environment

SB20-163

Purpose of the Statute

- ▶ “Evidence shows that state immunization requirements for schools, including child care facilities, are important tools for maintaining high immunization rates to prevent dangerous, costly, and sometimes deadly diseases.”
- ▶ “Evidence shows that states with lenient exemption policies, such as Colorado, experience higher rates of vaccine-preventable disease.”
- ▶ “Compared to other states, Colorado has one of the highest exemption rates for nonmedical reasons.”
- ▶ “In 2018, Colorado ranked last among 49 states that reported kindergarten measles, mumps, and rubella rates.”

2021-2022

Certificates Medical and Nonmedical Exemptions

www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption

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Certificates of Medical and Non-Medical Exemption

What are the reasons for the changes?

- ▶ Consolidates the personal belief and religious exemptions into a single non-medical exemption category
- ▶ Requires the use of CDPHE's "standard" medical and non-medical exemption forms
- ▶ Two ways to file a nonmedical exemption:
 1. File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* WITH a signature from an immunizing provider OR
 2. File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* received upon the completion of the online education module.

Certificate of Medical Exemption

www.Colorado.gov/vaccineexemption

- ▶ Certificate of Medical Exemption

Students with a completed *Certificate of Medical Exemption* (signed by a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, advanced practice nurse or delegated physician's assistant) will need to file this certificate **only once** unless the student's information or school changes.

Certificates of Nonmedical Exemption

www.Colorado.gov/vaccineexemption

- ▶ Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the process of filing a nonmedical exemption will change. There will be **two** ways to file a nonmedical exemption.
- ▶ File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* WITH a signature from an immunizing provider (MD, DO, APN, or PA)

OR

- ▶ File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* received upon the completion of our Online Immunization Education Module.

Certificates of Nonmedical Exemption (frequency of submission)

www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption

- ▶ Parents of students in grades K-12 claiming a nonmedical exemption must file one annually. **Nonmedical exemptions expire June 30 each year.** If a nonmedical exemption is submitted on or before June 30, it will not be valid for the upcoming school year **unless** the parent/guardian signed the exemption during early registration or enrollment.
- ▶ Parents of students in preschool or child care must file nonmedical exemptions at 2, 4, 6, 12 and 18 months of age. These exemptions expire when the next vaccines are due or when the child enrolls in kindergarten.

Online Immunization Education Module

www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption

- ▶ The online education module is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. It can take approximately 20 minutes to complete.
- ▶ It would be helpful for nurses and health paras to review the module so you can provide guidance to parents/guardians.
- ▶ It is important to listen closely to the beginning of the narrative which informs the listener how they can advance from one slide to the next slide.
- ▶ At the completion of the module, an electronic form can be completed to obtain a Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption. The parent/guardian will have an option to complete a form for more than one child in the family without having to retake the course.
- ▶ At the end of the course, the parent/guardian will have the option to either "Submit and Print" or "Print."
- ▶ It is not required for a health care provider to sign the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption that is provided after completing the "Online Immunization Education Module."

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The Parent Letter
(Standardized Document)

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The Parent Letter

- ▶ By January 15th, CDPHE shall develop and provide to CDE and CDHS the Parent Letter every year.
- ▶ By January 31st of every year, the CDE and CDHS shall post the updated Parent Letters on their websites.
- ▶ By February 15th 2021 and every following year, schools shall send the Parent Letter to students' parents or guardians.
- ▶ When the English version is posted on the CDPHE website, translation requests are submitted to language services.

The Spanish version is prioritized to be translated and should be posted before February 5th.

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Parent Letters - acceptable distribution

- ▶ Hard copy mail
- ▶ Electronic communication - email
- ▶ School Handbook
- ▶ School Newsletter

- ▶ “Solely posting a copy of the parent letter on a web site or in a central area of the school is NOT sufficient to satisfy the notice requirements; however, each school district (or child care/preschool/Head Start is encouraged to post a copy of the parent letter on its website.”

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The Parent Letters

- ▶ There are 2 different Parent Letters
 - For parents of Child Care, Preschool and Head Start students &
 - For Parents of K - 12th grade students

To access the Parent Letters go to the Immunization Branch website:

cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization

Click on the following links:

“Child care, school and college/university”

“Child care services” (to access the child care, preschool & Head Start letter)

“School resources” (to access the K - 12th grade letter)

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The Parent Letter
MMR data sharing - Page 2

- ▶ Schools are “required” to include the MMR immunization and exemption rates for each school on page 2 of the document.
- ▶ Schools “may” include immunization and exemption rates for every other vaccine if desired.

IMPORTANT:

In order to insert your school’s data, you must activate the fillable fields by downloading the parent letter from the website.


SB20-163 2019-20 School Data is Required to be Shared

- ▶ Schools will insert the 2019-20 school report data in the parent letter that is to be sent to parents by 2/15/21
- ▶ To access 2019-20 school data go to the CDPHE website:
cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization

Click on:

“Reports and data”

“School and child care immunization data”



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Vaccinated Children's Standard

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What is the “Vaccinated Children’s Standard?”

- ▶ The established ‘Vaccinated Children Standard’ is the immunization rate goal for every school of 95% of the student population to be vaccinated with the school-required vaccines.
- ▶ For example, if a school has 1000 students, 95% of the student population to be vaccinated would be 950 students. That is your ‘Vaccinated Children Standard’ for your school.

Colorado Immunization Branch website

cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization

“Child care, school and college/university”

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ #1

- ▶ *Can parents who are pre-enrolling their children for the upcoming 2021-22 SY submit the 2021-22 Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption at that time?*

Yes. It is acceptable for parents to submit the 2021-22 "Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption" during the school's pre-enrollment period for the upcoming 2021-22 SY.

FAQ #2

- ▶ *Do parents who are still enrolling in the current 2020-21 SY continue to submit the 2020-21 Nonmedical Exemption form or 'statement of exemption'?*

Yes. For students who continue to enroll in the current 2020-21 SY, parents must submit the 2020-21 Nonmedical Exemption form OR a Statement of Exemption.

Note: The parent-created "Statement of Exemption" will no longer be an acceptable nonmedical exemption for the upcoming 2021-22. If a parent chooses to exempt their child from receiving school required vaccines they must submit a "Certificate of Nonmedical" exemption at pre-enrollment or at a designated enrollment period established by the school.

Exemption information for both the 2020-21 SY and the 2021-22 SY are located at www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption

FAQ #3

► *What are the acceptable ways for schools to distribute the Parent Letter?*

Any one of the four following methods for distributing to parents is acceptable:

1. Electronic email
2. Hard copy mail
3. Student Handbook OR
4. Student Newsletter

"Solely posting a copy of the Parent Letter on a web site or in a central area of the school is not sufficient to satisfy the notice requirements. However, each school district is encouraged to post a copy of the Parent Letter document on its website." SB10-056



FAQ #4

- ▶ *Why are schools required to submit 2019-20 school data on the 2021-22 parent letter? Shouldn't schools report the 2020-22 school data?*

The MMR immunization and exemption rates to be included in the parent letter are "to be from the "*most recently completed school year.*"

The 2020-21 school year is still in session and the school reported data has not yet been fully collected and analyzed.

School Reporting Assistance

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