

Guidance for Physicians on Medical and Immunity Exemptions in Oregon

Medical Exemptions

Physicians in Oregon are allowed to sign medical exemptions for children with valid medical contraindications to immunization as determined by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Click here for the link to medical contraindications for vaccines: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications.htm>

All medical exemptions are subject to the approval of the local health department. Medical exemptions written for reasons of personal belief or spacing preferences will be denied.

There are two types of medical exemptions, temporary and permanent. All medical exemptions are temporary until reviewed by the local health department. If approved, the local health department will designate the exemption as either temporary or permanent. Temporary medical exemptions are given an expiration date at which time the child will need to receive the vaccine(s) or the physician will need to write a request for an extension for re-review by the local health department. With a permanent medical exemption, the child will never be required to receive the vaccine(s).

To apply for a medical exemption for a child, the parent must have a letter signed by a licensed physician stating:

- Child's name
- Birth date
- Medical condition that contraindicates vaccine
- List of vaccines contraindicated
- Approximate time until the condition resolves, if applicable,
- Physician's signature
- Physician's contact information including the phone number.

Immunity Exemptions

Immunity exemptions are acceptable for history of disease or positive titer. Immunity exemptions can be given for hepatitis B, hepatitis A, Hib, MMR and varicella. (Parents also can sign for history of disease for varicella.)

To apply for an immunity exemption for a child, the parent must have a letter signed by a licensed physician stating:

- Child's name
- Birth date

- Diagnosis or lab report
- Physician's signature

Some colleges may require immunization or titers for allied health students. See the link to ACIP recommendations for immunization of health care workers at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00050577.htm> and recommendations for specific vaccines at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm>