



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Recommendations & Guidelines for Granting Immunization Exemptions in Daycare, Preschools, Schools & Colleges

General Recommendations

1. Daycare, preschools, schools and colleges should use the appropriate *Immunization Exemption Certificate: Medical, Religious, or Temporary* (Appendices 1-3) available from the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) when granting exemptions. The certificates are multi-part forms and can be obtained by contacting the Family Health Information Line at (800) 942-7434.
2. Maintain a current Immunization Exemption Log (sample included– duplicate and use as necessary) of all exempt students to assist with prompt exclusion in the event of a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak.

Medical Exemptions

1. Use the *Medical Immunization Exemption Certificate* (Appendix 1) for all students with a medical contraindication to required vaccinations. Enter demographic information in Section 1 of form.
2. Students with a medical contraindication to a vaccine(s) should have their health care provider complete Section 2 of the *Medical Immunization Exemption Certificate* and return the certificate to the daycare/preschool/school/college.
3. The administrative head and school nurse should sign and date Section 3 of the *Medical Immunization Exemption Certificate*, and distribute copies as designated on the bottom of the certificate.

Religious Exemptions

1. Schedule an immunization/vaccine-preventable disease educational intervention session with parent/guardian or student if 18 years of age or older. Include a review of the educational materials included in this packet. Educational materials include:
 - A CDC Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)-(Sample included) for each of the required vaccinations for which the student is exempt. VIS are available in multiple languages at www.immunize.org/vis/, or by contacting the Family Health Information Line at (800) 942-7434.
 - *Facts for Parents to Consider with Unprotected Children*
 - Parents/students requesting additional information can be referred to or given a copy of *Reliable Sources of Immunization Information*
2. After reading the educational materials, have parent initial and sign Section 2 of the *Religious Immunization Exemption Certificate* (Appendix 2).
3. The administrative head and school nurse should sign and date Section 3 of the *Religious Immunization Exemption Certificate*, and distribute copies as designated on the bottom of the certificate.

Temporary Exemptions

1. Use the *Temporary Exemption Certificate* (Appendix 3) in a situation where a student has received at least the initial dose(s) of the required vaccine(s) and has a scheduled appointment to continue or complete the primary or booster dose(s) of an immunization series
2. The *Temporary Exemption Certificate* should expire on the date of the immunization appointment. There are no specific time constraints when using the form and schools may use their own discretion when determining a reasonable cut-off period for completion of immunization requirements. It is generally recommended that the cut-off date for completion be no later than December 31st.