



# **Understanding the Utah Immunization Rule for Students**

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## **Module I**

### **Laws, Admissions and Requirements**

# Laws, Admissions and Requirements About This Module

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**Purpose:** To define the law and immunization requirements pertaining to the Utah Immunization Rule for Students.

**Goal:** To improve administration and application of Utah school immunization requirements.

**Objectives:**

- Describe the types of schools for which the Rule applies.
- Define "Adequately Immunized."
- Define "Adequate for School Entry."
- Describe appropriate immunization documentation.
- Define "USIR."
- Define "Conditional Admission."
- Describe the three types of exemptions allowed in Utah schools.
- Define "Not-in-Compliance."
- Describe the four-day grace period.
- Describe the conditions for which a student may be excluded.
- Describe the importance of immunization in relation to school district funding.

# Utah Statutory Code

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To get a better understanding of the law, let's first look at the difference between a rule and a statute.

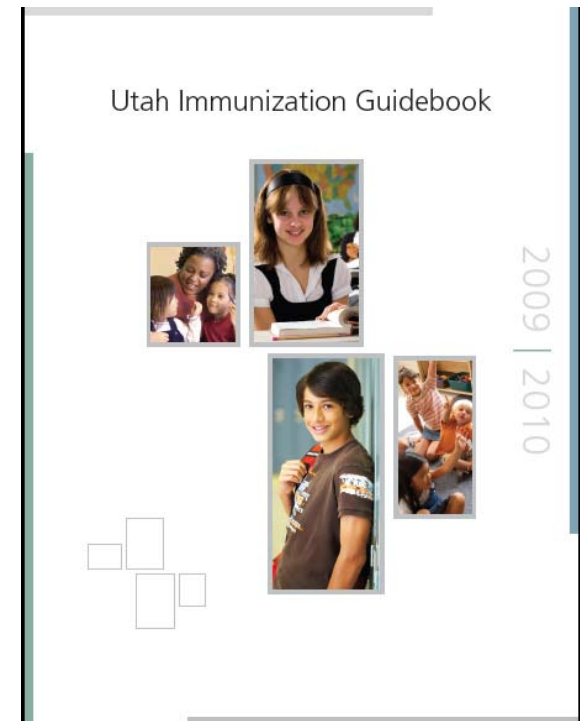
- Statutes are enacted by the Legislature and change only when the Legislature is in session.
- The Utah Department of Health is an authorized agency that can regulate or establish rules.
- [Utah Statutory Code, Title 53A, Chapter 11](#), defines immunization requirements, including procedures for reporting statistical information and non-compliance.



# Utah Immunization Rule for Students

Administrative rules have **the binding effect of law**, and unlike statues, can change throughout the year.

- Authorized agencies, such as the Utah Department of Health, do not have to go through the Legislature to change a rule.
- The Utah Immunization Rule for Students is an administrative rule under the [Utah Health Code, Section R396-100](#). It *implements* the requirements established under the Statutory Code.
- The Rule defines all vaccine requirements, admission requirements, exemptions to the Rule, official documents required, reporting requirements, exclusion procedures and penalties for non-compliance.



# School District Funding

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School districts receive funding based on a formula (weighted pupil units) that includes the average daily membership of students in attendance. See [Utah Code 53A-17a-106](#).

**i** **NOTE:** [Utah Code 53A-11-301](#) states that schools may not receive these funds for a student unless the student has obtained an immunization record or qualifies for conditional admission or a Personal, Medical or Religious Exemption.



# Admission

The Rule states that ALL children enrolled in a public, private, charter or parochial school MUST have an immunization record that documents ALL required vaccines received.

- *Adequately Immunized* means a student has received all the required immunizations or vaccines PRIOR to admission.
- A student is considered *Adequate for School Entry* if the student meets any of the following conditions:
  - received all the required vaccines;
  - claimed an exemption; or
  - is conditionally enrolled.



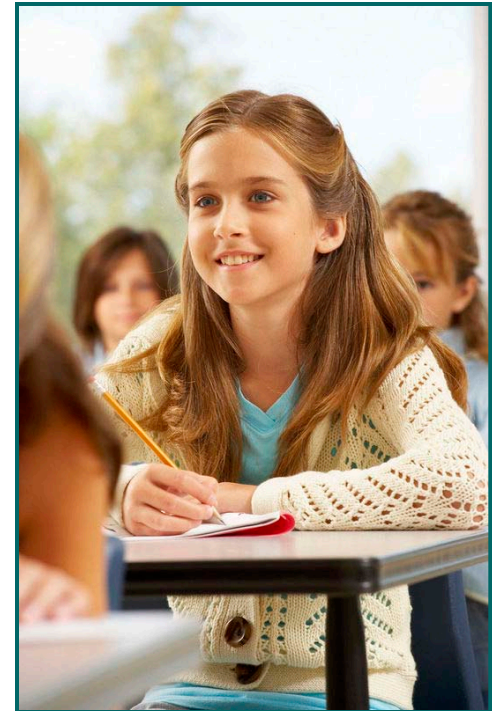
**i** **NOTE:** If a student does not have all the required vaccines, the student should not be admitted to school. There are exceptions to this Rule: Conditional Admission and Exemption.

# Exceptions to the Rule - Conditional Admission

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*Conditional Admission:* A student who has received at least one dose of each required vaccine and is currently on schedule to receive the next vaccine(s) may be conditionally admitted.

- If the vaccine(s) are one month past due the scheduled time for receiving the vaccine(s), the student will be considered *Not-in-Compliance* and the exclusion process must begin.
- Immunization records of conditionally admitted students or those not-in-compliance should be reviewed routinely to determine compliance.

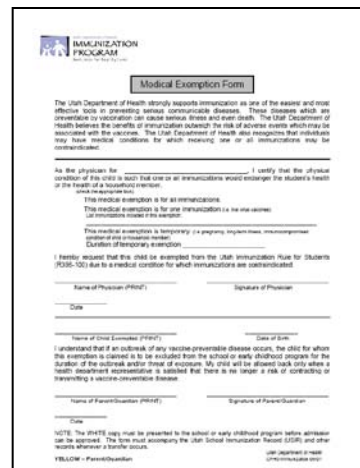


**i** **This means:** If a child is eligible to receive any vaccines, the child should not be admitted until the next doses are received.

# Exceptions to the Rule - Exemptions

The Rule allows the following exemptions for Kindergarten through twelfth grade:

- *Medical*
  - *Religious*
  - *Personal*
- These exemptions do not apply to college or university attendance.
  - Each exemption claimed **MUST** be accompanied by the appropriate Utah exemption form.
  - Personal and Religious exemption forms may be obtained at any Utah [public health department](#).
  - Medical exemption forms may be obtained from the student's physician or licensed health care provider.



**IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**  
Utah Department of Health

### Medical Exemption Form

The Utah Department of Health strongly supports immunization as one of the easiest and most effective tools in preventing serious communicable diseases. These diseases which are preventable by vaccination can cause serious illness and even death. The Utah Department of Health believes the benefits of immunization outweigh the risk of adverse events which may be associated with the vaccines. The Utah Department of Health also recognizes that individuals may have medical conditions for which receiving one or all immunizations may be contraindicated.

As the physician for \_\_\_\_\_, I certify that the above condition of this child is such that one or all immunizations would endanger the student's health to the extent of a substantial medical condition.

This medical exemption is for all immunizations.  
All immunizations under this exemption: \_\_\_\_\_  
This medical exemption is temporary (i.e. pregnancy, organ transplant, immunosuppression, cancer or other immunosuppressive condition).  
Duration of temporary exemption: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby request that this child be exempted from the Utah Immunization Rule for Students (R200-102) due to a medical condition for which immunizations are contraindicated.

Name of Physician (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Physician \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child Exempted (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
I understand that if an outbreak of any vaccine-preventable disease occurs, the child for whom this exemption is claimed is to be excluded from the school or early childhood program for the duration of the outbreak and/or threat of exposure. My child will be allowed back only when a health department representative is satisfied that there is no longer a risk of contracting or transmitting a vaccine-preventable disease.

Name of Parent/Guardian (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The STATE may not be permitted to attend in any school or early childhood program before admission can be determined. The form must accompany the Utah School Immunization Record (R200-102) and other records whenever a transfer occurs. Utah Department of Health (2016) Immunization 102  
YELLOW - Parent/Guardian



**IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**  
Utah Department of Health

### Religious Exemption Form

The Utah Department of Health strongly supports immunization as one of the easiest and most effective tools in preventing serious communicable diseases. These diseases which are preventable by vaccination can cause serious illness and even death. The Utah Department of Health believes the benefits of immunization outweigh the risk of adverse events which may be associated with the vaccines. The Utah Department of Health also recognizes that individuals may be in opposition to immunization, based upon religious practices and/or beliefs.

As the participant/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I certify that I am a member of a recognized religious organization which has doctrine that opposes immunizations.

Name of Religious Organization \_\_\_\_\_

I also understand that if an outbreak of any vaccine-preventable disease occurs, the child for whom this exemption is claimed is to be excluded from the school or early childhood program for the duration of the outbreak and/or threat of exposure. My child will be allowed back only when a health department representative is satisfied that there is no longer a risk of contracting or transmitting a vaccine-preventable disease.

I hereby request that my child be exempted from the Utah Immunization Rule for Students (R200-102) due to my religious practices and/or beliefs.

Name of Parent/Guardian (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child Exempted (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Local Health Officer or Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of School or Early Childhood Program \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The STATE may not be permitted to attend in any school or early childhood program before admission can be determined. The form must accompany the Utah School Immunization Record (R200-102) and other records whenever a transfer occurs. Utah Department of Health (2016) Immunization 102  
YELLOW - Parent/Guardian



**IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**  
Utah Department of Health

### Personal Exemption Form

The Utah Department of Health strongly supports immunization as one of the easiest and most effective tools in preventing serious communicable diseases. These diseases which are preventable by vaccination can cause serious illness and even death. The Utah Department of Health believes the benefits of immunization outweigh the risk of adverse events which may be associated with the vaccines. The Utah Department of Health also recognizes that individuals have the right to make the decision, should they choose not to immunize.

As the participant/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I certify that I have strong personal beliefs against the practice of immunization/vaccination. I am opposed to having my child immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases.

I also understand that if an outbreak of any vaccine-preventable disease occurs, the child for whom this exemption is claimed is to be excluded from the school or early childhood program for the duration of the outbreak and/or threat of exposure. My child will be allowed back only when a health department representative is satisfied that there is no longer a risk of contracting or transmitting a vaccine-preventable disease.

I hereby request that my child be exempted from the Utah Immunization Rule for Students (R200-102) due to my personal opposition to immunizations.

Name of Parent/Guardian (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child Exempted (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Local Health Officer or Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of School or Early Childhood Program \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The STATE may not be permitted to attend in any school or early childhood program before admission can be determined. The form must accompany the Utah School Immunization Record (R200-102) and other records whenever a transfer occurs. Utah Department of Health (2016) Immunization 102  
YELLOW - Parent/Guardian



# Claiming An Exemption

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- *A Medical exemption* may be claimed for a student from a licensed physician stating that due to the student's current physical condition receiving one or more vaccines may endanger the student's health or life.
- *A Religious exemption* may be claimed for a student from a valid member of a specified, recognized religious organization whose teachings are opposed to immunizations.
- *A Personal or Philosophical exemption* may be claimed for a student who is opposed to immunization based on personal belief.



# Homeless Students - Admission

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- Homeless students may be conditionally admitted.
- School officials should use their professional discretion to ensure these students receive the immunizations they need in a timely manner.
- The Utah Immunization Program will collaborate with the Utah State Office of Education to ensure school districts do not have funds withheld for homeless students, *if* there have been repeated efforts to obtain the required immunizations or immunization records.



**i** **NOTE:** Many of these homeless students have no insurance and are eligible to receive immunizations through the [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\) Program](#). Call 801-538-9450 for more information.

# Homeless Students - Title VII

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The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states:

- 1) The school shall immediately enroll the child or youth in school, even if the child or youth lacks records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency or other documentation. [Sec. 722 (g)(3)(C)(i)]
- 2) If a child or youth lacks immunizations or immunization records, the enrolling school must refer parent/guardian to the liaison, who shall help obtain necessary immunizations or immunization records. [Sec. 722 (g)(3)(C)(iii)]



# Students in Military Families - Admission

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Children legally residing in the home of an active-duty service member or whose parent or legal guardian is an active-duty service member may be conditionally admitted to school if they do not have their immunization records at the start of school.

**i** **NOTE:** Active-duty means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Sections 1209 and 1211.



# Students in Military Families - Utah Code

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Utah Code 53A-1-1001 - Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children states:

- Immunizations -- Compacting states shall give 30 days from the date of enrollment or within such time as is reasonably determined under the rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission, for students to obtain any immunization required by the receiving state. For a series of immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within 30 days or within such time as is reasonably determined under the rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission.

# Transfer Students

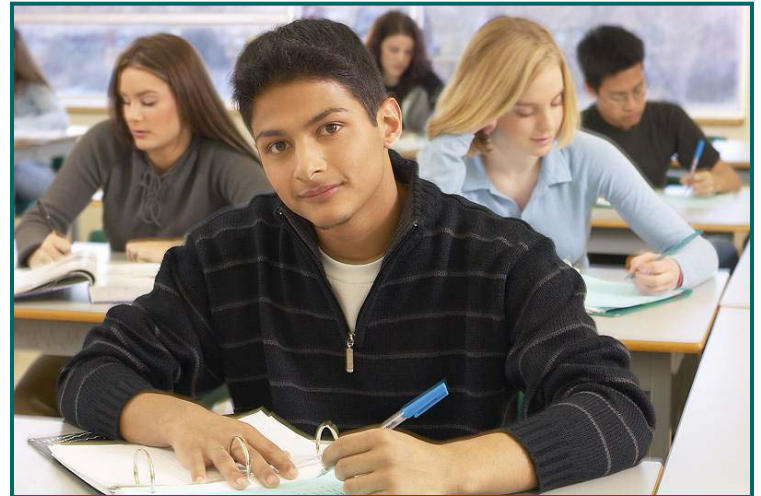
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ALL students, including transfer students from one Utah school to another or students outside Utah transferring to a Utah school, are required to provide the new school with appropriate immunization documentation.



## **This means:**

- Students who transfer to a Utah school must have a record of all vaccines they have received.
- The information should be transferred to the USIR as part of the student's official school record.
- If a student is missing any of the required vaccine doses, the student must receive the required doses to be in compliance.





# Documentation Requirements

- Appropriate immunization documentation must be provided BEFORE a student enters a school.
- Appropriate documentation is a record of all vaccines the student has received, including the month, date and year each vaccine was given.
- The Utah School Immunization Record (USIR), commonly called the “Pink Card,” is the official school immunization record for all students who are enrolled in any public, private, charter or parochial school.
- Transfer information from any other records to the USIR.
- Attach any exemption form to the USIR.
- A health authority, such as a school nurse, must verify the USIR.

**UTAH SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION RECORD**

This record is part of the student's permanent school record (cumulative folder) as defined in Section 53A-11-304 of the Utah Statutory Code and shall transfer with the student's school record to any new school. The Utah Department of Health and local health departments shall have access to this record. This immunization record may be entered into the Utah Statewide Immunization Information System (USIIS).

**Student Information**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender  Male  Female Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

**Vaccine Information**

VACCINE	Record the month, day, & year vaccine was given:				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
DTP, DTaP, DT, Td, Tdap <small>Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio</small>					
Tdap or Td Booster					<small>Tdap a preference for the 1<sup>st</sup> grade requirement, but it is acceptable.</small>
Polio					
Haemophilus influenzae b (Hib)					
Pneumococcal					
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) <sup>*</sup> <small><sup>*</sup> One must be received on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.</small>					
Measles (Mumps, 10 day, red measles) <sup>**</sup>					<small><sup>*</sup> Vaccine is given in the combined form (MMR), enter the complete date in the appropriate MMR box.</small>
Mumps <sup>**</sup>					<small><sup>**</sup> Vaccine is given as a single antigen, enter the date(s) in the appropriate box.</small>
Rubella (German measles, 3 day measles) <sup>**</sup>					
Hepatitis B (HBV)					
Varicella (Chickenpox) <small><sup>**</sup> One must be received on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.</small>					<small><sup>**</sup> If a student has history of the chickenpox disease, parent read sign to the right.</small>
Hepatitis A (HAV) <small>Must be received on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.</small>					

**SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM USE ONLY**

1. ALL REQUIREMENTS MET date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adequately Immunized  
 Or Exemption was granted for:  
 Medical (Expires on: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Religious

2. Conditional Admission date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Not in Compliance date: \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>\*</sup> Exemption is temporary, student is conditionally admitted, enter date in (2) and leave (1) blank.

**Disease Verification:**  
 My child has history of the chickenpox disease, and therefore, does not need the Varicella vaccine.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age of child at time of disease: \_\_\_\_\_

Utah Department of Health  
 Division of Community and Family Health Services  
 Immunization Program 0408  
[www.health.utah.gov](http://www.health.utah.gov)  
 (801) 538-4870

Record Source:  Physician  Registered Nurse  Health Dept.  
 I have reviewed the records available and to the best of my knowledge, this student has received the above immunizations

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

# Not-in-Compliance

A student with any of the following conditions is considered *Not-in-Compliance*:

- Received fewer than the required number of vaccine doses, and is one month past due for the next doses,
- Received one or more vaccine doses at less than the minimum interval or minimum age,
- Has not received any doses of the required vaccines and has not claimed an exemption,
- Has no official immunization record.

The image shows a "UTAH SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION RECORD" form. A large red circle with a diagonal slash is superimposed over the form, indicating that the form is not in compliance. The form includes fields for Student Name, Gender, Date of Birth, and Name of Parent/Guardian. It also features a "Vaccine Information" table with columns for months (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) and rows for various vaccines: DTP, DTaP, DT, Td, Tdap or Td Boosters, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae, Pneumococcal, Measles, Mumps, Measles (Mumps), Mumps\*\*, Rubella (German measles), Hepatitis B (HBV), Varicella (Chickenpox), and Hepatitis A (HAV). The form also contains sections for "EARLY CHILDHOOD USE ONLY" and "EXEMPTIONS".



# Four-Day Grace Period

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Utah allows a *four-day grace period* for auditing or record review purposes only. This time frame allows the school authority reviewing the records to apply a four-day period for a student who received doses of any vaccine too early. The following conditions apply:

- The grace period shall not exceed four days,
- This grace period shall not be used to schedule vaccine doses that are due.



**i This means:** Vaccine doses given up to four days before the minimum interval or age can be counted as valid doses. Doses given five days or earlier should not be counted as valid doses and should be repeated.

# Exclusion

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A local or state health representative may exclude (physically dismiss) a student who meets any of the following conditions:

- Has claimed an exemption to one or more vaccines or is conditionally admitted and there is good cause to believe the student may be exposed to a vaccine preventable disease,
- Has been exposed to a vaccine preventable disease as a result of school attendance,
- Is conditionally admitted and has failed to obtain the vaccines required within the specified time period.



# Exclusion - Written Notice

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A written notice of a pending suspension and of the student's rights under Utah Code 53A-11-302 shall be mailed beginning five days after the conditional enrollment period ends. See [Utah Code 53A-11-306](#).

**i** **NOTE:** An excluded student may not attend school until the local health officer is satisfied that the student is no longer at risk of getting or spreading a vaccine preventable disease.





# Administering the Utah Immunization Rule for Students

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- Vaccines are one of the most important public health tools available for preventing disease.
- As more and more vaccines are licensed, the more complicated the immunization schedule becomes. The schedule can be confusing for parents and school officials resulting in unnecessary exclusion of students.
- It is important that school officials use the utmost discretion and adhere to the guidelines in these modules when administering the Rule.
- If you are uncertain how to interpret or apply a rule, please contact the Utah Immunization Program at 801-538-9450 or email [immunize@utah.gov](mailto:immunize@utah.gov) for assistance.