



Olympia School District

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For Schools and Parents

New Vaccine Requirements and Regulations effective 7/22/2011 if you wish to exempt your child from the immunizations requirements for school attendance,

On May 10, 2011, Governor Gregoire signed a bill that requires a **licensed health care provider to sign the Certificate of Exemption for a parent or guardian to exempt their child from school and child care immunization requirements.**

If you are asking to exempt your child from the immunization requirements you are now required to consult with a licensed health care provider and provide the school with **either** of the following:

1. Signed letter from a licensed health care provider stating the provider gave the parent/guardian information about the risks and benefits for each immunization the child will be exempt from. This letter **MUST be attached to a Certificate of Exemption** identifying each immunization the child will be exempt from, signed by a parent/guardian.
2. If you are asking for a 'religious' exemption, the new law allows parents/guardians to claim a religious exemption without the signature of a health care provider **ONLY** if they demonstrate membership in a religious body that does not believe in medical treatment by a health care provider.

This is the information we have received from Department of Health:

Schools have not received any new forms from Department of Health. The new immunization exemption law goes into effect on July 22, 2011. The new law requires a parent/guardian who asks for any type of exemption for a child (medical, religious, or philosophical) to turn in a Certificate of Exemption (COE) signed by a health care provider stating that the parent/guardian got information about the benefits and risks of immunization. A parent/guardian can also turn in a signed letter from a health care provider stating the same thing.

The law gives providers who sign the COE or letter protection against civil liability. The law allows parents/guardians to claim a religious exemption without the signature of a health care provider if they demonstrate membership in a religious body that does not believe in medical treatment by a health care provider.

The Department of Health is working with the State Board of Health, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Early Learning, and other partners to update the Certificate of Exemption, develop educational materials, and implement a communication plan. When completed, we will post the updated COE and education materials on our website and send notices as soon as they become final. Look for communications on the SNOW Listserv, the DOH School and Child Care Listserv, and in various newsletters. Schools and licensed child cares: get prepared by becoming familiar with these materials.