

#### IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTION:

Exclusions from immunization compliance are allowable on an individual basis for medical contraindications, reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, and active duty with the armed forces of the United States. Children and students in these categories must submit evidence for exclusion from compliance as specified in the Health and Safety Code §161.004(d), Health and Safety Code §161.0041, Education Code Chapter 38, Education Code Chapter 51, and the Human Resources Code Chapter 42.

#### TO CLAIM AN EXCLUSION FOR MEDICAL REASONS:

The child or student must present a statement signed by the child's physician (M.D. or D.O.), duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States who has examined the child, in which it is stated that, in the physician's opinion, the vaccine required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the child or any member of the child's household. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.

#### TO CLAIM AN EXCLUSION FOR REASONS OF CONSCIENCE, INCLUDING A RELIGIOUS BELIEF:

Written requests must be submitted through the U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier, fax, or by hand-delivery to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Information regarding obtaining exemptions can be obtained at [www.ImmunizeTexas.com](http://www.ImmunizeTexas.com) or by calling the Texas Department of State Health Services at 512-458-7111. The official Texas Department of State Health Services affidavit form must be notarized and submitted to school officials. The form must be submitted within 90 days from the date it is notarized. The school will accept only official affidavit forms developed and issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch. **No other forms or reproductions will be allowed.**

#### TO CLAIM AN EXCLUSION FOR ARMED FORCES:

Persons who can prove that they are serving on active duty with the armed forces of the United States are exempted from the vaccine requirements.

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IMMUNIZATION  
REQUIREMENT

Each student shall be fully immunized against diphtheria, rubeola (measles), rubella, mumps, tetanus, and poliomyelitis. The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) may modify or delete any of these immunizations or may require immunizations against additional diseases as a requirement for admission to any elementary or secondary school. *Education Code 38.001(a), (b)*

TDSHS requires students in kindergarten through twelfth grade to have the following additional vaccines, according to the immunization schedules set forth in department regulations: pertussis, hepatitis B, hepatitis A (for students attending schools in high incidence geographic areas as designated by the department), and varicella (chickenpox). *25 TAC 97.63(2)(B)* [See TDSHS's Website at [http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/imm\\_sched.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/imm_sched.shtm)]

In the event of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease, the local health authority may require or recommend additional doses or boosters to provide further protection. *25 TAC 97.72*

IMMUNIZATION  
AWARENESS  
PROGRAM

A district that maintains an Internet Website shall post prominently on the Website:

1. A list, in English and Spanish, of:
  - a. The immunizations required by TDSHS for admission to public school;
  - b. Any immunizations or vaccines recommended for public school students by TDSHS. The list must include the influenza vaccine, unless TDSHS requires the influenza vaccine for admission to public school; and
  - c. Health clinics in the District that offer the influenza vaccine, to the extent those clinics are known to the District; and
2. A link to the TDSHS Internet Website where a person may obtain information relating to the procedures for claiming an exemption from the immunization requirements. The link must be presented in the same manner as the information provided under paragraph 1.

APPLICABILITY

The vaccine requirements apply to all students entering, attending, enrolling in, and/or transferring to the District. *25 TAC 97.61(a)*

EXCEPTIONS

Immunization is not required for admission to the District:

MEDICAL  
REASONS

1. If the student submits to the admitting official:
  - a. An affidavit or a certificate signed by the student's physician (M.D. or D.O.) who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States and who has examined the student.

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The affidavit or certificate must state that, in the physician's opinion, the immunization required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's household. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.

OR

REASONS OF  
CONSCIENCE

- b. An affidavit signed by the student or, if a minor, the student's parent or guardian stating that the student declines immunization for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. The affidavit will be valid for a two-year period.

The affidavit must be on a form obtained from the TDSHS and must be submitted to the admitting official not later than the 90<sup>th</sup> day after the date the affidavit is notarized.

A student who has not received the required immunizations for reasons of conscience may be excluded from school in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health.

OR

MILITARY DUTY

2. If the student can prove that he or she is a member of the armed forces of the United States and is on active duty.

*Education Code 38.001(c), (c-1), (f); Health and Safety Code 161.004(a), (d)(2), 161.0041; 25 TAC 97.62*

PROVISIONAL  
ADMISSION

A student may be provisionally admitted or enrolled if the student has begun the required immunizations. The student must have an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each age-appropriate vaccine specified in the regulations.

COMPLETION OF  
VACCINATIONS

To remain enrolled, the student must continue to receive the necessary immunizations as rapidly as medically feasible. The student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccination series on schedule and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the District.

REVIEW OF STATUS

A school nurse or school administrator shall review the immunization status of a provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccination. If, at the end of the 30-day period, a student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in compliance and the District will exclude the student from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

HOMELESS  
STUDENT

A student who is homeless, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, shall be admitted temporarily for 30 days if acceptable evidence of vaccination is not available. The school shall promptly refer the student to appropriate public health programs to obtain the required vaccinations. [See FD and FDC]

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TRANSFER  
STUDENTS

A student can be enrolled provisionally for no more than 30 days if he or she transfers from one Texas school to another, and is awaiting the transfer of the immunization record.

MILITARY  
DEPENDENTS

A dependent of a person who is on active duty with the armed forces of the United States can be enrolled provisionally for no more than 30 days if the student transfers from one school to another and is awaiting the transfer of the immunization record.

*Education Code 38.001(e); 25 TAC 97.66, 97.69; Atty. Gen. Op. GA-178 (2004)*

EVIDENCE OF  
IMMUNIZATION

A student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination before entry, attendance, or transfer to the District. *25 TAC 97.63(2)*

Vaccines administered after September 1, 1991, shall include the month, day, and year each vaccine was administered. The following documentation is acceptable:

1. Documentation of vaccines administered that includes the signature or stamp of the physician or his or her designee, or public health personnel;
2. An official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority, such as a registry; or
3. A record received from school officials including a record from another state.

*25 TAC 97.68*

Serologic confirmations of immunity to measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella are acceptable. Evidence of measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella illnesses must consist of a laboratory report that indicates either confirmation of immunity or infection.

A parent- or physician-validated history of varicella disease (chickenpox) or varicella immunity is acceptable in lieu of vaccine. A written statement from a physician, or the student's parent or guardian, or school nurse, must support histories of varicella disease.

*25 TAC 97.65*

IMMUNIZATION  
RECORDS

Not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day after a parent or other person with legal control of a student under a court order enrolls the student in the District, the parent or other person, or the District in which the student most recently attended school, shall furnish to the District a record showing that the student has the required immunizations. *Education Code 25.002(a)(3)*

Each district shall keep an individual immunization record during the period of attendance for each student admitted. The records shall be sufficient for a

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valid audit to be completed. The records shall be open for inspection at all reasonable times by TEA, local health departments, or the TDSHS.  
*Education Code 38.002(a); 25 TAC 97.67*

TRANSFER OF  
RECORDS

Each district shall cooperate in transferring students' immunization records to other schools. Specific approval from students, parents, or guardians is not required before transferring those records. *Education Code 38.002(b)*

ANNUAL REPORT

Districts shall submit annual reports of the immunization status of students, in a format prescribed by TDSHS, to monitor compliance with immunization requirements. All districts shall submit the report at the time and in the manner indicated in the instructions printed on the form. *Education Code 38.002(c); 25 TAC 97.71*

CONSENT TO  
IMMUNIZATION

In addition to persons authorized to consent to immunization under Family Code Chapters 151 (parents) and 153 (conservators), the following persons may consent to the immunization of a child:

1. A guardian of the child; and
2. A person authorized under the law of another state or a court order to consent for the child.

*Family Code 32.101(a)*

The district in which the child is enrolled may give consent to the immunization if:

1. The persons listed above are not available; and
2. The district has written authorization to consent from a person listed above.

*Family Code 32.101(b)(5)*

The District may not consent for the child if it has actual knowledge that a person listed above has:

1. Expressly refused to give consent to the immunization;
2. Been told not to consent for the child; or
3. Withdrawn a prior written authorization for the District to consent.

*Family Code 32.101(c)*

DUTY TO PROVIDE  
INFORMATION

A district that consents to immunization of a child shall provide the health-care provider with sufficient and accurate health history and other information as set forth in Family Code 32.101(e).

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FORM OF CONSENT

Consent to immunization must meet the requirements of Family Code 32.002(a). [See FFAC] The District has the responsibility to ensure that the consent, if given, is an informed consent. The District is not required to be present when the immunization is requested if a consent form has been given to the health-care provider. *Family Code 32.101(f), 32.102*

LIABILITY

A district consenting to immunization of a child is not liable for damages arising from an immunization administered to a child authorized under Family Code Subchapter B except for injuries resulting from the district's own acts of negligence. *Family Code 32.103*