

*This exclusion is to prevent a disease outbreak and for the protection of the community. It also protects the inadequately vaccinated student. No exceptions are made to this requirement, regardless of circumstances.*

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This brochure was developed to answer general questions students may have about religious exemptions. If you need additional information, or need to discuss your specific situation, please contact your local health department or the Oregon Immunization Program at 971-673-0300.



State Public Health  
Immunization Program  
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 370  
Portland, Oregon 97232  
Phone (971) 673-0300  
Fax (971) 673-0278

If you have a disability and need this document in an alternate format, call (971) 673-0300 or fax (971) 673-0278 and TDD 971-673-0372.

If you know of others who will need this accommodation, please let them know it is available.

DHS 8051

## Claiming A Religious Exemption to School Immunization Requirements In Oregon

What You Need  
To Know



All of us have a stake in making sure that we stay healthy and avoid illness. In Oregon, all full-time students attending colleges/universities are required to have certain immunizations or to have an appropriate medical or religious exemption.

Oregon Law 433.267(c) allows you to sign a statement that “being raised as an adherent to a religion the teachings of which are opposed to such immunization”, my religious beliefs prohibit my use of immunization.

### **DEFINITION OF RELIGION**

Oregon Administrative Rule 333-050-0010 defines “religion” for the purpose of immunization requirements to be “any system of beliefs, practices or ethical values.”

Some people *cannot* be vaccinated because of medical conditions – and exposure to any vaccine-preventable disease could be **fatal** to them.

If you have been exposed to a disease, intentionally or not, please stay home at the first sign of illness.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Actively choosing not to receive immunizations is your right, however it carries with it a significant responsibility: not exposing others to communicable disease.

### **RIGHTS**

No one can deny you the right to sign a religious exemption. If you are told that you cannot sign a religious exemption or that you need additional documentation of your beliefs, please report it to the **Oregon Immunization Program at 971-673-0300.**

Listing a vaccination history for yourself does not affect your right to a religious exemption for the state measles requirement. We encourage you to document any vaccinations you have received so that your medical history is as complete as possible. Colleges or universities may require additional vaccines or screenings.

### **DISEASE CONTROL**

In case of a disease occurrence, the local public health authority has the right to exclude you from attending classes.

If you have been excluded, stay away from other students until the risk of infection is past.