

Religious Exemptions

Oregon recognizes parent-signed exemptions from vaccine requirements for religious reasons. “Religion” is defined in Oregon Administrative Rule **333-050-0010** as any system of beliefs, practices or ethical values.

To claim a religious exemption, a parent must sign Section C of the Certificate of Immunization Status, available from your child’s school or childcare facility. An exemption may be claimed for one or more vaccines or for all vaccines, but the parent must indicate which vaccines the exemption applies to in Section C. Listing a vaccination history in Section A will not affect a parent’s ability to claim an exemption.

In case of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease in a community, the county health department has the legal authority to exclude from school or child care attendance any child who has not been appropriately immunized, including children with a religious or medical exemption.

Medical Exemptions

Oregon allows medical exemptions for children who have a medical condition that contraindicates vaccination or for children who are immune to a disease because of natural infection. Only physicians or county health departments may sign a medical exemption. Parents may sign a statement that a child has had chickenpox disease.

Medical exemptions must be in a letter from a physician supplementing the Certificate of Immunization Status. The letter must include the child’s name and birth date, vaccine(s) affected, the condition that contraindicates vaccination or the diagnosis or lab test results that prove immunity, as well as the physician’s signature and contact information.

In case of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease in a community, the county health department has the legal authority to exclude from school or childcare attendance any child who has not been appropriately immunized, including children with a religious or medical exemption. Children who are immune to a disease because of natural infection are considered protected.