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Your Question:

You asked for an update to ECS's 2019 vaccination exemption information. Additionally, you asked for information on the instruction of students who receive exemptions.

Our Response:

In 2014, the [Centers for Disease Control](#) reported that immunizations prevented more than 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 child deaths in the United States over the previous two decades. The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination [rates among kindergarteners](#) across the states varied from 87.4% to 99.2%. The Centers for Disease Control has [acknowledged](#) that there is potential for vaccination rates to fall during the pandemic as people react to stay-at-home orders and limitations on doctors' visits. One [study out of Michigan](#) found a 21.5% decline in non-influenza vaccinations for children 18 years of age and younger between January and April 2020.

All [50 states](#) and the District of Columbia have state policies requiring vaccines for students. Exemptions are provided in all states to students who have documented medical reasons for not being vaccinated. The following information details the states with and without religious and philosophical exemptions to vaccinations required for school entry.

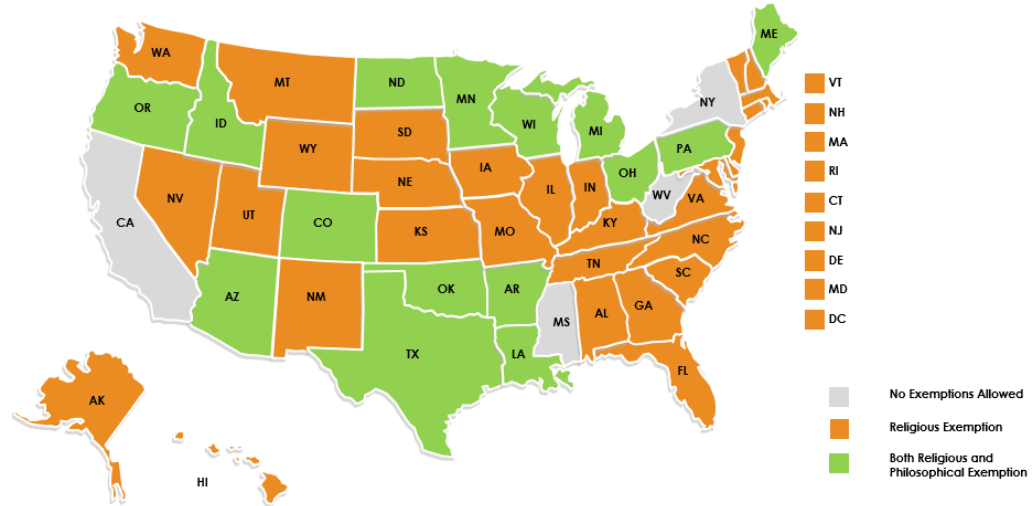
Non-Medical Exemptions for Vaccinations

Generally, states require parents to provide the school, district or state with written documentation that the child has been vaccinated. Frequently, parents are provided with a window of time to provide documentation of the child's immunization record.

All but four states (**California, Mississippi, New York** and **West Virginia**) allow exemptions for personal or religious beliefs. **Maine** currently permits religious and philosophical exemptions, but beginning September 1, 2021, the exemptions will no longer be allowed. Forty-six states and the District of Columbia allow religious exemptions for vaccinations. Sixteen states allow philosophical exemptions for people who object to immunizations for personal, moral or other beliefs. In states that permit religious or philosophical exemption, the criteria for the exemptions vary.

Religious exemptions typically allow parents to exempt their children from vaccination if it contradicts their religious beliefs. Philosophical exemptions vary from state to state, but generally, they allow parents to exempt their child from vaccination based on personal or moral beliefs beyond their religion. In both types of exemptions, states generally have a clause establishing that the exemption is based on sincere beliefs and views.

Non-Medical Exemptions for School Vaccination Requirements



State	Religious Exemption	Philosophical Exemption	Statute
Alabama	Yes	No	Ala. Code § 16-30-3
Alaska	Yes	No	Ak. Stat. §14.30.125 (requiring vaccination) Alaska Admin. Code tit. 4, § 06.055 (detailing exemptions)
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-873
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-702
California	No	No	Cal. Health & Safety Code § 120325 et seq.
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25-4-903
Connecticut	Yes	No	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-204a
Delaware	Yes	No	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 131
Washington, DC	Yes	No	D.C. Code Ann. § 38-506
Florida	Yes	No	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1003.22
Georgia	Yes	No	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-771
Hawaii	Yes	No	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1156
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Idaho Code § 39-4801, 4802
Illinois	Yes	No	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/27-8.1
Indiana	Yes	No	Ind. Code Ann. § 21-40-5
Iowa	Yes	No	Iowa Code Ann. § 139A.8

Kansas	Yes	No	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-5209
Kentucky	Yes	No	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 214.034
Louisiana	Yes	Yes	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §40:31.16
Maine (exemptions are allowed through September 1, 2021)	Yes	Yes	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 20-A § 6355
Maryland	Yes	No	Md. Code Ann. Educ. § 7-403
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Mass. Gen Laws ch.76, § 15
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 333.9215
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 121A-15
Mississippi	No	No	Miss. Code Ann. § 41-23-37
Missouri	Yes	No	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 210.003
Montana	Yes	No	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-405
Nebraska	Yes	No	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-221
Nevada	Yes	No	Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.437
New Hampshire	Yes	No	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 141-C:20-c
New Jersey	Yes	No	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 26:1A-9.1
New Mexico	Yes	No	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 24-5-3
New York	No	No	N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 2164
North Carolina	Yes	No	N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-157
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	N.D. Cent. Code § 23-07-17.1
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.671
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 1210.192
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Or. Rev. Stat. § 433.267
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	28 Pa. Code § 23-84
Rhode Island	Yes	No	R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-38-2
South Carolina	Yes	No	S.C. Code Ann. § 44-29-180
South Dakota	Yes	No	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-7.1
Tennessee	Yes	No	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-5001
Texas	Yes	Yes	Tex. Edu Code Ann. § 38.001
Utah	Yes	Yes	Utah Code Ann. § 53G-9-303
Vermont	Yes	No	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 18, § 1122
Virginia	Yes	No	Va. Code Ann. § 32.1-46
Washington (effective through July 1, 2022)	Yes	No	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.210.090
West Virginia	No	No	W. Va. Code § 16-3-4
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 252.04
Wyoming	Yes	No	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-309

School Attendance and Vaccination Exemptions

While policy varies across the states, generally, a student exempt from vaccinations cannot attend school during an outbreak. Based on a preliminary scan of the state policies outlined above, at least 32 states can make students stay home during a disease outbreak. Instruction of students who must stay out of school during an outbreak is generally dealt with at a school level.