

State law requires a licensed health care provider to sign the Certificate of Exemption (COE) for a parent or guardian to exempt their child from school and childcare immunization requirements. The signature verifies that the provider gave the parent or guardian information about the risks and benefits of immunization. A parent or guardian can also turn in a signed letter from a health care provider stating the same information. The law applies to exemptions requested after July 22, 2011.

Measles, mumps, and rubella **may not be exempted for personal/philosophical reasons**. Medical and religious exemptions may still be accepted but require health care provider signature. To request an exemption a completed Certificate of Exemption must be submitted to the school or childcare center. A health care provider does not need to sign the form for parents or guardians who demonstrate membership in a church or religious group that does not allow a health care provider to provide medical treatment to a child.

1. School and Child Care Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

Washington State Law allows parents or guardians to exempt their child from the school or childcare immunization requirements. Exemptions may be claimed for personal/philosophical, religious or medical reasons. Measles, mumps, and rubella may not be exempted for personal/philosophical reasons. To request an exemption a completed Certificate of Exemption must be submitted to the school or childcare center. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/Immunization#laws>

2. MMR Vaccine Exemption Law Change 2019

In 2019, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill that removes the personal and philosophical option to exempt children from the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine required for school and childcare entry. The bill was signed by Gov. Jay Inslee on May 10, 2019.

- The new law will take effect July 28, 2019 and apply to both public and private schools.
- The law also requires employees and volunteers at childcare centers to provide immunization records indicating they have received the MMR vaccine or proof of immunity.
- This law does not change religious or medical exemption laws. Children who have one of these types of exemptions already on file are not affected by the new law.
- Access your family's immunization records if you need to check whether or not your child meeting the MMR vaccine requirements.

This law will not affect most students. More than 9 out of 10 kindergarteners in Washington are complete with both doses of MMR vaccine, and 96 percent of 6th graders have both doses. These students, along with those who have medical or religious exemptions, will notice no change from the new exemption law.

<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/physical-health-nursing-services/immunizations>