



PARENT/GUARDIAN EXEMPTION

WHAT PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE NEED TO KNOW

Immunizations are the best protection against serious diseases. Vaccines are safe and effective and were developed to protect individuals from dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases.

Choosing not to immunize a child greatly increases the risk of getting serious diseases like pertussis, measles, mumps and chickenpox that can cause severe complications such as heart failure; difficulty breathing and swallowing; lung and liver infections; brain swelling and damage; paralysis; meningitis; deafness; liver problems; and bleeding disorders.

Children who are not immunized can transmit vaccine-preventable diseases throughout the community to babies who are too young to be fully immunized or to others who cannot be immunized for medical reasons. Exposure to any vaccine-preventable disease could be fatal.

Actively choosing not to immunize a child by claiming an exemption is a parent's right; however, it carries significant responsibility. To protect inadequately vaccinated individuals and the entire community, unimmunized children could be excluded from child care during disease outbreaks. This can cause hardship for the child and parent. No exceptions are made, regardless of the circumstances.

Claiming an exemption represents a parent or guardian's objection to immunizing against vaccine-preventable diseases.

An exemption form can be obtained from the local health department and filed for selected vaccines or for all vaccines. Parents and guardians should indicate which vaccines are included on the Parent / Guardian Exemption. The exemption must be completed and filed with the child care center administrator annually.

It is unlawful for any child to attend child care unless the child has been immunized or unless the parent or guardian has signed and filed a Parent / Guardian Exemption.

Immunizations may save your child's life!

