



April 12, 2017

Regarding School Responsibility and Immunization Exemptions

In response to several requests from schools for support and clarity around the usage of immunization exemption forms, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado Department of Education jointly issue this memo.

Schools are required to have an immunization record on file for every student enrolled. Immunization records are the official certificate of immunization, the official medical exemption form or a documented non-medical exemption. The certificate of immunization is located here: www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/immunization-forms. Medical and nonmedical exemption forms are located here: www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption.

We encourage the use of the CDPHE non-medical exemption form when possible. However, recognizing that some families may prefer not to use this form, a parent/guardian or emancipated student or student over the age of 18 may submit a signed non-medical statement of exemption per section 25-4-903(2)(b), C.R.S. Such a statement should include the following information: student's full name, age or date of birth, date the exemption was submitted, the vaccines declined, and which type of non-medical exemption is being taken (personal belief or religious).

Additionally, schools are not required to share immunization records with CDPHE but may do so if the parent has provided written consent, per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Parents/guardians/students may choose to submit immunization and exemption forms directly to CDPHE for inclusion in the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS), the state's secure, confidential immunization registry. Once a record is in CIIS, schools can retrieve immunization or exemption records for their students at any time. All information contained in CIIS is kept confidential per section 25-4-2403, C.R.S. Parents/guardians/students can opt out of CIIS at any time by following the procedures here: www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/ciis-opt-out-procedures.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Wolk', is written over a large, loopy scribble.

Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer
Colorado Department of Public Health and
Environment

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katy Anthes', is written over a large, loopy scribble.

Katy Anthes, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Colorado Department of Education