PARENT/GUARDIAN EXEMPTION

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS IN CHILD CARE

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; brain damage; and deafness.

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. Exclusion from care can cause a hardship for the child and parent, however 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 can be filed for selected vaccines or for all vaccines. Parents and guardians should indicate which required vaccines are being exempted from on the Parent/Guardian Immunization Exemption form. An exemption form can be obtained for printing by clicking the button below. 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 Immunization Exemption.

IMMUNIZATIONS MAY SAVE YOUR CHILD'S LIFE!

JOPLIN
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH &
SENIOR SERVICES
Bureau of Immunizations

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER
Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.
Hearing- and speech-impaired citizens can dial 711

Rev. 12-22

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

PARENT/GUARDIAN IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTION

MUST BE RENEWED ANNUALLY

Required under Missouri state immunization laws (Section 210.003, RSMo) for public, private, or parochial day care center, preschool or nursery school caring for ten or more children.

We strongly encourage you to immunize your child, but ultimately the decision is yours. Please discuss any concerns you have with a trusted healthcare provider or call the immunization coordinator at your local or state health department. Your final decision affects not only the health of your child, but also the rest of your family, the health of your child's friends and their families, classmates, neighbors, and community.

Unimmunized children have a greater risk of contracting and spreading vaccine-preventable diseases to babies who are too young to be fully immunized and those who cannot be immunized due to medical conditions. In the event of an outbreak or suspected outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease within a particular facility, children who are not fully immunized or do not have documented laboratory evidence of immunity shall not be allowed to attend school or day care until the local health authority declares the designated outbreak or health emergency has ended.

☐ I have read and been informed of the consequences of not immunizing my child. (please initial)

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I, THE PARENT/ GUARDIAN OF	NAME OF CHILD (print or type)

DO OBJECT TO MY CHILD RECEIVING THE FOLLOWING CHECKED IMMUNIZATION(S)

☐ DIPHTHERIA ☐ HEPATITIS B ☐ HIB ☐ MMR

☐ PERTUSSIS ☐ PNEUMOCOCCAL ☐ POLIO ☐ TETANUS

☐ VARICELLA ☐ OTHER _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (PRINT OR TYPE)	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE	DATE