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Frequently Asked Questions about Senate Bill 895 for Oregon Colleges

What did Senate Bill 895 change about religious exemptions to immunization?

Old religious exemptions to immunization signed before March 1, 2014, are no longer accepted. Students who have an old religious exemption on file with you will need new documentation of immunizations, a medical exemption, or a nonmedical exemption.

How do I get new documentation for students with old religious exemptions?

1. Identify students with a religious exemption signed prior to March 1, 2014.
2. Contact the students to let them know that you need updated documentation.
3. If you use a computer tracking system for immunization requirements, delete any old religious exemptions signed prior to March 1, 2014.

What are the options for students with old religious exemptions?

- **If the student has received the vaccines**, have them submit the dates of vaccination to you.
- **If the student wants a nonmedical exemption**, they need to complete the new process and turn in the Vaccine Education Certificate that they will receive after completing the required education about immunizations from a health care practitioner or the from the online vaccine education module. If students need more information about nonmedical exemptions, they can go to www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption
- **If the student needs a medical exemption**, they need to submit a statement from the physician to you. Medical exemptions must be based on contraindications to immunization.

What do I do if the student doesn't update the required documentation?

At the beginning of the second term or semester, the student will not be allowed to attend classes. Most colleges enforce this requirement by blocking registration for the second term or semester.