



## Frequently Asked Questions about Senate Bill 895 for Schools and Child Cares

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### What did Senate Bill 895 change about religious exemptions?

Old religious exemptions to immunization signed before March 1, 2014, are no longer accepted. Children 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 children with old religious exemptions?

1. Identify children with a religious exemption signed prior to March 1, 2014.
2. Use ALERT IIS to look up children with religious exemptions. If you find the vaccine doses that were missing, print the school record, which is the Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) format, and keep on file. If you don't have access to ALERT IIS, go to [www.alertiis.org](http://www.alertiis.org) for training options.
3. If you can't find all of the required doses in ALERT IIS, contact the parents letting them know that you need updated documentation for their child. Include a new CIS form for the parent to complete (you can send a blank CIS form or the printout of the school record CIS from ALERT IIS). A sample letter for parents is available at: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Documents/SchSB895parentletter.docx>

### What are the options for parents of children with old religious exemptions?

- **If the child has received the vaccines**, have the parent write the dates on a Certificate of Immunization Status form and turn in the form to you.
- **If the parent wants a nonmedical exemption for the child**, the parent needs to complete the new process and turn in two forms:
  1. Certificate of Immunization Status—have the parent fill in the dates of any vaccines the child has received, fill out the nonmedical exemption section by marking the vaccines for which they want the exemption, and then sign and date the exemption.

AND

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2. Vaccine Education Certificate—tell the parent to turn in this certificate that they will receive after completing the required education about immunizations from a health care practitioner or from the online vaccine education module.

If parents need more information about nonmedical exemptions, they can go to [www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption](http://www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption)

- **If the parent needs a medical exemption for the child**, the parent needs to submit a statement from the physician to you. Send a copy of the medical exemption to the local health department for approval. They will tell you whether the medical exemption is accepted or denied, whether it is permanent or temporary. Temporary medical exemptions will also have an expiration date for when they need to be reviewed.

### **What do I do if the parent doesn't update the child's documentation?**

1. In January, report the child as Incomplete or No Record to the local health department on your Immunization Primary Review Summary report. (If you use a computer tracking system, the old religious exemptions signed before March 1, 2014, will need to be deleted for each student before you prepare your report. Check with your customer support staff as there may be a date already determined for deletion of these religious exemptions).
2. The local health department will send an exclusion order to the parent of the child.
3. If the documentation is not updated by Exclusion Day in February, then the school or children's facility administrator is required by law to exclude the child until documentation is received.

### **What did Senate Bill 895 change about immunization reporting requirements?**

Schools and children's facilities (preschools, Head Starts and certified child care programs) will be required to have their immunization and exemption rates available at their main offices, on their websites, and for parents on paper or electronic format.

### **What do I have to include in the immunization report?**

Immunization and exemption rates, by vaccine, will be need to be included in the immunization report. School computer systems and paper reporting forms will be updated this year to reflect the new reporting requirements. Immunization rates from last school year that you may link to your website and make available to parents now can be found at: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/VaccinesImmunization/GettingImmunized/Pages/SchResources.aspx>