

Missoula County Public Schools

Students 3413

Student Immunization

The Board requires all students to present evidence of their having been immunized against disease as required by the State of Montana.

Upon initial enrollment, an immunization status form shall be completed by the student's parent or guardian. The certificate shall be made a part of the student's permanent record.

A pupil who transfers into the District may photocopy immunization records in the possession of the school of origin. The District will accept the photocopy as evidence of immunization. Within thirty (30) days after a transferring pupil ceases attendance at the school of origin, the District shall retain a certified copy for the permanent record and send the original immunization records for the pupil to the school district to which the pupil transfers.

Exemptions from one or more vaccines shall be granted for medical reasons upon certification by a physician indicating the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition for not administering the vaccine(s). Exemptions for religious reasons may be granted provided the parent/guardian provides an Affidavit of Exception on Religious Grounds, before a Notary Public, that states the immunizations are contrary to their religious tenets and practices. A form for this purpose is available at every school. Religious exemptions must be renewed annually at the start of each school year. The statement for an exemption shall be maintained as part of the student's immunization record. The permanent file of students with exemptions shall be marked for easy identification should the Department of Health order that exempted students be excluded from school temporarily when the risk of contracting or transmitting a disease exists.

Exclusion shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days.

The Superintendent may allow the commencement of attendance in school by a student who has not been immunized against each disease listed in § 20-5-403, MCA, if that student has received one or more doses of polio, measles (rubeola), mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis, Haemophilus influenza type "b", and tetanus vaccine.

The District shall exclude a student for noncompliance with the immunization laws and properly notify the parent or guardian. The local health department may seek an injunction requiring the parent to submit an immunization status form, take action to fully immunize the student, or file an exemption for religious or medical reasons.

Legal Reference:

§ 20-3-324(20), MCA Powers and duties

§ 20-5-401 - 410, MCA Health

Policy History:

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Approved on: October 13, 2015