

Immunization Questions and Answers

1. Are immunizations required for all children enrolled in school?

Yes. At the time of enrollment, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide proof of their child's proper immunizations status in accordance with current Indiana Law. It is the policy of Hamilton Southeastern Schools that a complete immunization record is to be on file in the school nurse's office before your child may attend school.

2. What information must be included on the physician's statement to document immunization?

The statement must include the student's name and date of birth, the vaccine given and date (month/day/year) of each immunization, and the signature of a medical provider.

3. What qualifies as an exemption for a vaccine?

- Medical exemption written by a physician
- Religious exemption written by a parent

4. What must a medical exemption contain?

A medical exemption is a physician's certification that a particular immunization is detrimental to the child's health. It must state in writing that the child has a medical contraindication to receiving a vaccine and must be resubmitted to the school each year. As true medical contraindications to immunization are vaccine-specific, medical exemptions must be written for each vaccine that is contraindicated.

5. May a chiropractor give a medical exemption for vaccination?

No. Only a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) can provide a medical exemption. A nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant under a physician's supervision can also give a medical exemption.

6. What must a religious exemption contain?

A religious objection must state that the objection to immunization is based on religious grounds. Each objected immunization must be specified. The objection must be in writing, signed by the child's parent, and delivered to the school. There is no requirement of proof. The written religious objection must be resubmitted to the school each year.

7. Is there a philosophical objection allowed in Indiana?

No. Indiana law only allows religious and medical exemptions.

8. Can a child attend school if they have a documented appointment to receive the required vaccine?

Yes. If a required immunization will not be complete by the first day, the parent must furnish a written statement and a time schedule approved by a physician or health department.

9. When should I send these updated immunization records to the school nurse?

Please send them as soon as possible so that they can be added to your child's record before the start of the school year. Immunization records can be mailed, faxed or hand-delivered to the school your child will be attending.