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Texas Immunization Exemptions

House Bill (H.B.) 1586, 89th Legislature, Regular Session passed and amended [Texas Health and Safety Code §161.0041](#).

DSHS revised the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapter 97, §97.62 Exclusions from Compliance and §97.64 Required Vaccinations and Exclusions for Students Enrolled in Health-related and Veterinary Courses in Institutions of Higher Education.

DSHS now posts a blank immunization exemption affidavit form on the Texas Immunization Exemption page for a person to download, complete, notarize, and submit to their child-care facility, school, or institution of higher education, including students enrolled in health-related or veterinary courses. A person may request DSHS print and mail the form via the United States Postal Service to the requested address.

The current process for requesting the form is available below.

Immunization Exemptions Overview

[Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\) §97.62](#) covers the conditions under which a student can request an exemption from getting immunizations to enter their school or college. There are three conditions for exemption:

- If a health care provider determines that it is not safe for the student to get a certain vaccine.
- If the student is in the United States military.
- If the student has a religious or personal belief that goes against getting immunized.

NOTE: Please note that these rules only apply to students in Texas and not employees who need an exemption from immunizations required by their employer.

Exemptions for Medical Reasons

Some people may have medical reasons for not getting certain vaccines. Only a doctor (MD or DO) can write a note explaining why someone cannot receive a vaccine. Schools and child-care centers must accept it. The signed note is only valid for one year unless your doctor states that you have a life-long condition.

Requesting an Exemption for Reasons of Conscience

A child's parent, a legal guardian, or a student 18 years or older has the option to download and print the blank immunization exemption affidavit form.

To receive an exemption, students and parents or legal guardians, on behalf of their child, may download an affidavit form using the methods outlined below.

First, download and print the [Blank Affidavit Exemption from School or Child-Care Immunizations for Reasons of Conscience form, Stock No. F11-11755](#).

DSHS suggests you review the How to Complete CO Form Stock information, Stock No. 11-12953 and the [Benefits and Risks of Vaccination, Stock No. 11-11846](#).

To request that DSHS mail you the form, submit a request through the United States Postal Service (USPS), commercial carrier, fax, online, or in person. DSHS does not accept phone and email requests. DSHS uses the USPS to mail requested forms with an estimated delivery within three weeks.

Use the Request for Exemption from Immunizations for Reasons of Conscience form, Stock No. EF11-13140. The request must include the following information:

- Name of parent, legal guardian, or self (for the mailing label).
- Complete USPS mailing address (for the mailing label).
- Telephone number (to allow DSHS to contact the requestor if the request is not deliverable and returned to DSHS).
- Number of requested affidavit forms.

NOTE: DSHS does not retain this information. DSHS only uses it for the mailing label or to include in the documents sent to the requestor.

You can request an affidavit through one of these methods:

- Via the Immunization [Section Affidavit Request website](#).
- By mail. Send a written request for an affidavit through the USPS.
- Mail to:
Texas Department of State Health Services Immunization Section
Mail Code 1946
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
- By fax to (512) 776-7544.
- In person at:
Texas Department of State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

NOTE: You must notarize all affidavits before submitting them to the school or child-care facility. Do not modify them in any way before submitting them to the school or child-care facility.

Submitting an Exemption for Reasons of Conscience

Make sure to submit the student's name and date of birth, sign the document, and notarize the affidavit form from DSHS.

Submit the completed and notarized form to the child-care facility, school, or institution of higher education, including those offering health-related or veterinary courses. The exemption is valid for two years after the notary date. A child-care facility, school, or institution of higher education, including those offering health-related or veterinary courses, may exclude a child or student not immunized for reasons of conscience, religion, or medical exemption from attending to school if there is an official emergency or an outbreak designated by the school or public health department.