

IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTIONS

Exclusions from compliance are allowable on an individual basis for medical contraindications, and for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. Children and students in these categories must submit evidence for exclusion from compliance as described below.

- 1) To claim an exclusion for medical reasons, the child or student must present a statement signed by the child's physician (MD or DO), duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the U.S. who has examined the child. The statement must say that in the physician's opinion the vaccine require is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the child or any member of the child's household. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.
- 2) To claim an exclusion for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, a signed affidavit must be presented by the child's parent or guardian, stating that the child's parent or guardian declines vaccinations for reasons of conscience, including reasons for religious beliefs. The affidavit will be valid for a two-year period. This two-year period begins on the date the affidavit is actually received by the school district. The child, who has not received the required immunizations for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs, may be excluded from school in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health. This affidavit form may only be obtained by submitting a written request to the Texas Department of Health, including the full name of the child, and the child's full date of birth.

TB TESTING

All students will be screened for risk for exposure to tuberculosis upon entering the school district and again upon entering junior high school, by filling out a questionnaire and the nurse reviewing it and making recommendations from it. Students identified as being at increased risk of acquiring tuberculosis will be required to have a TB skin test. If a TB skin test is needed, a student may attend class while waiting for the results as long as no symptoms of tuberculosis are exhibited. If the student has a history of a positive TB skin test, written proof of a negative chest x-ray or documentation of oral preventative therapy shall meet the district's requirements.

The Children's Wellness Center, located at the Opportunity Center, 3311 FM 973 South, is open during the summer and provides immunization services free of charge. Call (512) 385-0035 for an appointment. The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department at (512) 972-5400 is a good resource for other immunization locations.