



Michigan Medical Freedom Guide for Parents & Citizens Your Rights in Michigan: What You Need to Know

As a Michigan parent or citizen, you have choices when it comes to vaccinations for yourself and your children. This guide explains your rights, the exemption and the current waiver process, and helpful additional resources.

I. Vaccination Exemption Types: An Overview¹

- Medical Exemption: When a licensed physician determines a vaccine may be detrimental to the child's health or is not appropriate.
- Personal/Religious Exemption: When vaccination conflicts with your moral, personal, or religious convictions.
- Full Vaccination: When one follows the state-required immunization schedule.

II. Medical Exemptions in Michigan²

A. When to Use This Option

- Request of a licensed physician if a vaccine is or may be detrimental to your child's health or is not appropriate.

B. Requirements

- According to [Michigan Rule 325.176](#) a medical exemption must:
 - Be a written statement.
 - Signed by a physician or local health officer.
 - State the specific vaccine(s) that may be medically contraindicated or inappropriate.

¹Michigan Public Health Code, § 333.9215: [Exemptions](#).

²Ibid, Michigan Administrative Code R.325.176 (6): [Immunizations required of children attending group programs or entering school](#).

- Explain the reason for the exemption.
- Indicate duration – temporary or permanent.
- Be documented on the state’s official exemption form ([State of Michigan Medical Exemption Form](#)).
- Schools and child-care facilities are required to accept a valid medical exemption.
- Note: Children with exemptions may be excluded during outbreaks.

III. Personal/Religious Exemptions in Michigan³

A. When to Use This Option

- You may request a religious or other exemption if vaccination conflicts with your personal, moral, or religious beliefs. There is no need for affiliation with an organized religion.

B. Michigan Law: Statute & Administrative Rules

- [Section 9215 of the Public Health Code](#) provides for exemption “if a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis of the child presents a written statement to the administrator of the child’s school or operator of the group program to the effect that the requirements of this part cannot be met because of religious convictions or other objection to immunization.”
- [Rules](#)⁴ promulgated in 2014 by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules require parents/guardians to obtain a certified nonmedical waiver form through the local health department to claim their non-medical exemption.

C. Step-by-Step Waiver Rule Process

1. Contact your local health department and receive education about vaccine benefits and disease risk.
2. Give the local health department your child’s information including the declined vaccines so they may generate a certified State of Michigan Nonmedical Immunization Waiver form for you online in the [Michigan Care Improvement Registry](#) (MCIR) or on paper.

³Michigan Public Health Code, § 333.9215: [Exemptions](#).

⁴Michigan Administrative Code R.325.176 (6): [Immunizations required of children attending group programs or entering school](#). MDHHS [Nonmedical Waiver Frequently Asked Questions](#).

3. If a paper form is obtained, submit the official certified and unaltered form to your child's school or child-care provider.

D. Notes about the Waiver Process

- Some local departments require in-person education sessions; others provide online education.⁵
- Local departments should provide a paper "State of Michigan Nonmedical Immunization Waiver" form upon request.⁶
- Michigan law authorizes entry of immunization information into the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). Parents may request limits on disclosure of registry information.⁷
- Your consent is also required for the local school to enter your child's personal data from a paper waiver into MCIR/SIRS (School Immunization Reporting System). The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) Consent Form for Disclosure, usually filled out during the school enrollment process, gives or denies this permission.⁸
- New waivers are required at key entry points: kindergarten, 7th grade and enrolling in a new district, and annually for licensed childcare facilities, preschools and HeadStart programs.⁹

IV. **Vaccine Mandates During Public Health Emergencies¹⁰**

- During an official disease outbreak or public health emergency declared by Michigan health officials, unvaccinated students without proof of natural immunity, including those with exemptions, may be temporarily excluded from school.

⁵MDHHS. [Immunization Waiver Information for Local Health Departments](#).

⁶MDHHS. [Nonmedical Waiver Frequently Asked Questions](#).

⁷[MCL §333.9207](#).

⁸MDHHS. [School Protocol for the IP-100 Immunization Reporting Process 2025-2026](#).

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Michigan Administrative Code, R.325.175: [Procedures for physicians, local health officers, and schools for control of diseases and infections](#); MDHHS [Immunization Requirements Memo \(August 7, 2025\)](#).

V. School Immunization Requirements by Grade Level¹¹

Michigan requires students to provide proof of immunization or a valid exemption for enrollment. Key vaccine requirements include:

- Childcare & Pre-K
 - *DTaP – Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis*
 - *Polio*
 - *Hib – Haemophilus influenzae type b*
 - *Polio*
 - *MMR – Measles, Mumps, Rubella*
 - *Pneumococcal Conjugate*
 - *Hepatitis B*
 - *Varicella (Chickenpox)*
- Kindergarten & 4–6-Year-Old Transfer Students
 - DTaP/DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
 - Polio
 - MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
 - Hepatitis B
 - Varicella (or documented history of chickenpox)
- 7th Grade & 7–18-Year-Old Transfer Students
 - Diphtheria & Tetanus – four doses diphtheria and tetanus or three doses if first dose given on or after 1 year of age or one dose of Tdap at 11 years old or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher
 - Polio: four doses or three doses if dose three was given on or before 4 years of age
 - MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella): two doses at or after 12 months of age or documented immunity

¹¹[MCL §380.1177](#); Michigan Public Health Code, Part 92: [Immunizations](#); MDHHS (2025). [Vaccine Required for Childcare and Preschool in Michigan](#); MDHHS. [Vaccines Required for School Entry in Michigan](#); MDHHS. [Vaccine Recommendations vs. School and Childcare Rules: What is the difference?](#).

- Hepatitis B: three doses or documented immunity
- Meningococcal Conjugate (MenACWY): one dose at 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher
- Varicella: two doses at or after 12 months, current lab immunity, or documented history of chickenpox
- College Students under Age 22¹²
 - No statutory or administrative rule vaccine requirements.
 - Policies vary by institution. Records submission is often required for on campus residence or enrollment though exemptions are generally accepted. Some programs have stricter rules.
 - Records for those 18+ are available online at the [Michigan Immunization Portal](#).

VI. Constitutional, Federal, and Employment Protections

A. Constitutional Protections

- The [First Amendment](#) guarantees your right to religious exercise. Courts have consistently held that government policies cannot favor secular motivations over religious ones.

B. Federal Civil Rights & Employment Protections

- Under [Title VII of the Civil Rights Act](#), employers must consider requests for religious accommodation related to vaccination.
- An employer must grant an accommodation unless doing so would create an undue hardship on the business.
- The [U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission \(EEOC\)](#) enforces these protections.

VII. Tips for Parents & Citizens

A. Documentation

- Keep copies (digital and printed) of all forms.
- Photograph or scan forms before submitting them.

¹²National Council of State Legislatures (2025). [State Vaccine Requirements for College Entry](#).

- Ask the school for a dated receipt.

B. Working With Schools

- Present your documentation clearly and respectfully.
- Understand that some staff may be unfamiliar with exemption law, waiver rules or FERPA; you may need to reference Michigan Department of Health and Human Services guidance.
- If necessary, request to speak with an administrator.

C. Protecting Privacy¹³

- Parents desiring to opt their children out of MCIR, or re-rescind a previous opt-out, must email this [opt-out form](mailto:MCIRHelp@michigan.gov) to MDHHS-MCIRHelp@michigan.gov or fax to 517-763-0370. Immunization records will be hidden from healthcare providers including doctors, your child's pediatrician, hospitals, and local health departments.
- A parent wanting to opt out of a health care provider reporting to MDHHS/MCIR must do so in writing to the provider prior to their reporting. (Providers must notify individuals of their right to object to reporting before administering an immunizing agent).
- Parents and (students 18 or older) wanting to prevent school personnel from entering their or their child's immunization records or vaccine waiver information into MCIR/SIRS must not consent to data sharing on your school's version of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Consent Form for Disclosure usually presented at the time of school enrollment. Request to view your form and update as necessary.

D. Reporting Issues

- If you experience any adverse effects from vaccines, report to [VAERS \(Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System\)](#). Document any pressure, coercion, or discrimination related to vaccine status.
- Report student privacy violations to the [US Department of Education Student Privacy Policy Office \(SPPO\)](#) within 180 days.

¹³[MCL §§333.9206-333.91.2907](#); MDHHS [Immunization Requirements Memo \(August 7, 2025\)](#).

VIII. Frequently Asked Questions¹⁴

1. Can I pick and choose which vaccines to exempt?

Yes. You may exempt your child from specific vaccines while receiving others. You are not required to take an “all or nothing” approach.

2. Do I need to belong to a specific religion to claim a religious or personal exemption?

No. You do not need to be affiliated with an organized religion to qualify for a religious or other student exemption though a “strongly held religious belief” objection to vaccination is generally considered stronger than a personal/philosophical objection in employee situations.

3. How long does the waiver process take?

The timeline depends on your local health department education format and schedule. The certified waiver is usually same day or soon after.

4. Can schools and child-care facilities reject my exemption?

Public and private schools and child-care facilities must accept a valid, properly completed, and certified waiver form as evidence of a parental exemption. However, they may refuse incomplete, uncertified, or improperly submitted documentation. If you encounter difficulties after submitting a valid waiver, consider requesting clarification in writing or seeking legal guidance.

5. What happens if we move to another school district in Michigan?

You must complete the waiver process through your local health department again.

6. Can my child be provisionally enrolled?¹⁵

Students are required to have an up-to-date certificate of immunization or a valid, certified waiver at the time of enrollment (or no later than the first day of school). Provisional enrollment and attendance is allowed only if the child has received at least one dose of a vaccine and is waiting on the recommended time to receive the next dose, not if they lack a record or waiver.

¹⁴This document is for general education only and not legal or medical advice. Always consult a qualified healthcare provider for medical decisions and a licensed attorney for legal questions. Verify all laws and agency policies before acting.

¹⁵ [MCL §380.1177](#); [MCL §333.9208](#); MDHHS [Immunization Requirements Memo \(August 7, 2025\)](#).

7. What can I do to protect my child's vaccine privacy?

Opt your child out of MCIR. Instruct health care providers in writing to not share vaccine information with MDHHS or MCIR. Request a new FERPA Consent Form for Disclosure from the school and note that you do not consent. Keep copies for your records.

IX. Helpful Resources & Websites¹⁶

- **Official Michigan Resources**

- [Michigan Public Health Code Part 92: Immunization](#)
- [The Revised School Code §380.1177](#)
- [Michigan Administrative Code R.325.176 \(6\)](#)
- [Michigan DHHS School and Childcare Immunization Information](#)
 - [Vaccines Required for Childcare](#): MDHHS-Pub-1254
 - [Vaccines Required for School](#): MDHHS-Pub-1378
 - [Non-medical waiver FAQ](#)
 - [Medical Exemption Form](#): MDHHS-DCH-0713
- [Michigan Immigration Portal](#) (Records)
- [Michigan Care Improvement Registry](#)
- [MCIR Opt-Out](#)

- **Advocacy Organizations**

- [Michigan for Vaccine Choice](#)

- **Legal & Educational Resources**

- [National Vaccine Information Center](#)
- [Children's Health Defense](#)
- [The Healthy American](#)
- [America's Frontline Doctors](#)

- **Federal Government Resources**

¹⁶The inclusion of outside resources should not imply endorsement and instead are exclusively provided for informational purposes.

- [CDC Vaccine Information](#)
- [VAERS](#)
- [Family and Education Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\) and Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment \(PPRA\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education – Protecting Student Privacy](#)