

Vermont Vaccine Exemption Laws

Vermont Statutes

Title 18: Health

Chapter 21: Communicable Diseases

§ 1121. Immunizations required prior to attending school and child care facilities

(a) No person may enroll as a student in a Vermont school, regardless of whether the student has been enrolled in the school during a previous school year, unless the appropriate school official has received a record or certificate of immunization issued by a licensed health care practitioner or a health clinic that the person has received required immunizations appropriate to age as specified by the Vermont department of health.

(b) No person may enroll or retain a child in a child care facility, regardless of whether the child has been enrolled in the facility during a previous year, unless the facility has received a record or certificate of immunization issued by a licensed health care practitioner or a health clinic that the child has received required immunizations in the prior 12-month period appropriate to age as specified by the Vermont department of health.

§ 1122. Exemptions

(a) A person may remain in school without a required immunization:

(1) If the person, or in the case of a minor the person's parent or guardian presents a written statement from a licensed physician, health clinic or nurse that the person is in the process of being immunized. The person may continue to attend school as long as the immunization process is being accomplished;

(2) If a physician, licensed to practice in Vermont, certifies in writing that a specific immunization is or may be detrimental to the person's health or is not appropriate;

(3) If the person, or in the case of a minor the person's parent or guardian states in writing that the person, parent or guardian has religious beliefs or moral convictions opposed to immunization.

(b) The health department may provide by rule for further exemptions to immunization based upon sound medical practice. (Added 1979, No. 40; amended 1981, No. 18, § 3.)

§ 1123. Immunization rules and regulations

The health department shall adopt rules for administering this subchapter. Such rules shall be developed in consultation with the department of education with respect to immunization requirements for Vermont schools, and in consultation with the department for children and families with respect to immunization requirements for child care facilities. Such rules shall establish which immunizations shall be required and the manner and frequency of their administration, and may provide for exemptions as authorized by this subchapter.

§ 1129. Immunization registry

(a) A health care provider shall report to the department all data regarding immunizations of adults and of children under the age of 18 within seven days of the immunization, provided that required reporting of immunizations of adults shall commence within one month after the health care provider has established an electronic health records system and data interface pursuant to the e-health standards developed by the Vermont information technology leaders. A health insurer shall report to the department all data regarding immunizations of adults and of children under the age of 18 at least quarterly. All data required pursuant to this subsection shall be reported in a form required by the department.

(b) The department may use the data to create a registry of immunizations. Registry information regarding a particular adult shall be provided, upon request, to the adult, the adult's health care provider, and the adult's health insurer. A minor child's record also may be provided, upon request, to school nurses, and upon request and with written parental consent, to licensed day care providers, to document compliance with Vermont immunization laws. Registry information regarding a particular child shall be provided, upon request, to the child after the child reaches the age of majority and to the child's parent, guardian, health insurer, and health care provider. Registry information shall be kept confidential and privileged and may be shared only in summary, statistical, or other form in which particular individuals are not identified.