

Certificate of Immunization Exemption Questions and Answers July 2015

Q: Why did the Certificate of Immunization Exemption change?

A: The changes were made to make the provisions of the certificate clearer for health care providers and the public. The changes are consistent with Iowa Code and Administrative rules.

Q: Why did the Certificate of Immunization Exemption become two separate documents, medical and religious?

A: The Certificate of Immunization Exemption became two separate documents; Certificate of Immunization Exemption - Medical and Certificate of Immunization Exemption - Religious a result of adding additional information and fields to the certificate.

Q: What is the date of the most current Certificate of Immunization Exemptions?

A: The Certificate of Immunization Exemption dated, June 2015 is the most current version. Blank versions of the certificate with a revision date prior to June 2015 should be discarded.

Q: Where can I obtain copies of the new Certificate of Immunization Exemptions?

A: The Certificates of Immunization Exemption are available on the [Immunization Program webpage](#) and available to order from the Health Protection Clearinghouse.

- Call 888-398-9696
- Online – Immunization Program webpage
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Products.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=Products>

Q: Are previous versions of the Certificate of Immunization Exemption valid, or do all students need to be updated with a new certificate?

A: Previous versions of the Certificate of Immunization Exemption already on file remain valid, and student records do not need to be updated to the current version. The Certificate of Immunization Exemption dated June 2015 will be implemented in a phased-in approach. Versions of the Certificate of Immunization Exemption completed prior to June 2015 can be accepted for upcoming school years.

Q: Do all of the fields on the Certificates of Immunization Exemption have to be completed to be valid?

A: Yes. All of the fields on either the medical or religious exemption need to be completed for the certificates to be valid. The only field that may be left blank is the expiration field on the Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Medical. If, in the opinion of the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant issuing the medical exemption, the exemption should be terminated or reviewed at a future date, an expiration date shall be recorded on the certificate of immunization exemption.

Q: Is a medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption valid when signed by a doctor of chiropractic?

A: No, a Certificate of Immunization Exemption for medical reasons is valid only when signed by a physician (M.D. or D.O.), physician assistant or nurse practitioner. The new Certificate of Immunization Exemption includes fields for the health care professional to print their name and include their medical license number.

Q: What religions are acceptable for a religious exemption?

A: The Iowa administrative code does not specify religious denominations eligible for religious immunization exemptions. A Certificate of Immunization Exemption - Religious is valid when completed appropriately and notarized. A religious exemption may be granted to a student if the immunization conflicts with a genuine and sincere religious belief and the belief is in fact religious and not based merely on philosophical, scientific, moral, personal, or medical opposition to immunizations.