

School Year 2012-2013

Dear Parent or Guardian,

During the past legislative session Act 157 was passed, which relates to immunization exemptions.

This new legislation requires that all religious and philosophical exemptions must be signed and submitted at the start of each school year.

The parent or guardian signing the exemption must also acknowledge the following:

- They have read and understood evidence-based information regarding immunizations as provided by the Vermont Department of Health.
- They understand that failure to complete the required vaccination schedule increases risk to the child and others of contracting or carrying a vaccine-preventable infectious disease.
- They understand that there are people with special health needs attending schools and child care facilities who are unable to be vaccinated or who are at heightened risk of contracting a vaccine-preventable communicable disease and for whom such a disease could be life-threatening.

The evidence-based information that you are required to read is located on the Department of Health website: <http://healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/schoolentry.aspx>

The exemption forms are also located on the Vermont Health Department website. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to print, sign and return the exemption form to the school annually if he/she chooses to claim a religious or philosophical exemption.