



Annual Immunization and Exemption Information

March 7, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year will be open April 4-30 and, as part of the registration process, will require updated immunization forms. This year, with the passing of a revised school immunization law (SB20-163), the method for certifying exemptions has changed. To ensure a smooth registration, please read this message in its entirety.

Below, you will find information on the required immunizations, including how to claim an exemption for your child(ren) under state law and Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) regulations.

At Ascent Classical Academies, we offer continued support to parents making decisions best suited for their children's individual needs, tailored to meet all aspects of their well-being.

A. Required Immunizations

The following immunizations are required by law: Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTap/DTP/Tdap); Hepatitis B (HepB); Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR); Polio (IPV); and Varicella (chickenpox). Please note that the Covid-19 vaccine is not included in Colorado's required or recommended immunization schedule for 2022-2023.

B. Medical Exemptions (Must be Signed by a Healthcare Provider)

Parents may claim a medical exemption by submitting a form with a statement of medical exemption signed by an advanced practice nurse, a delegated physician assistant, or physician, indicating that the physical condition of the student is such that immunizations a) would endanger his/her life or health or b) are medically contraindicated due to other medical conditions. You only need to submit this form or statement once to the school unless your student's information changes.

CDPHE's medical exemption form is attached to this letter and is also accessible at cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions.

C. "Nonmedical" (Religious or Personal Belief) Exemptions (Must be Signed by a Healthcare Provider)

Parents may claim a religious or personal belief exemption by submitting a form or document, signed by the parent(s), indicating that the parent, guardian, or student adheres to a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to immunizations or has a personal belief opposed to immunizations. Beginning this year, the nonmedical exemption form must also be signed by a health care provider who is authorized to administer vaccinations. (Note: practitioners signing such forms are protected from retaliation by their employers under the law, and discipline or adverse action against their professional license based on signing an exemption form is illegal.) The exemption form or document must be submitted once per school year during enrollment; nonmedical exemptions expire annually on June 30th.

CDPHE's nonmedical exemption form is attached to this letter and is also accessible at cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions. The law does not forbid a letter or other form as long as it contains the information required under the law (*a Provider's signature*).

D. "Nonmedical" Exemptions Through Completion of Education Module

As an alternative to submitting the nonmedical exemption form or document, a parent or guardian can complete a 20-minute online education module available at cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions. Upon completion, a certificate will be generated which must be downloaded and submitted to your school. You only need to complete the module once, but this system requires you to provide information for all your children to generate the certificate.

For additional state information regarding immunizations, or access to forms in other languages, see: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions>.

Attached is CDPHE's "letter to parents" which, by law, must be distributed annually. For questions or concerns, please contact the front office staff at your child's campus.

Sincerely,

Ascent Classical Academies

- Attachments:**
- 1) CDPHE letter to parents
 - 2) CDPHE medical exemption form
 - 3) CDPHE nonmedical exemption form
 - 4) CDPHE Online Video Module