

New process for claiming non-medical exemptions to school immunization requirements begins March 1, 2014

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Senate Bill 132A was signed into law by the Governor on June 26, 2013. This bill will change the process for parents to claim a non-medical exemption to school/childcare immunization requirements. The new process for claiming a non-medical exemption (formerly called religious exemption) will start **March 1, 2014**. After this date, parents choosing a non-medical exemption to immunization requirements will be required to submit to the school or childcare a document showing either:

1. a signature from a health care practitioner verifying discussion of the risks and benefits of immunization, or
2. a certificate of completion of an interactive online educational video about the risks and benefits of immunization.

The Oregon Immunization Program will develop the online video with input from clinics, schools, childcares, health departments and parents. The Oregon Immunization Program will also communicate with providers about their role providing education. Parents may claim a non-medical exemption to school/childcare immunization requirements for any reason, including but not limited to religious or philosophical beliefs. For more information, please see the following links:

Senate Bill 132A, final version:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/sb0100.dir/sb0132.en.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions (from the Oregon Pediatric Society):

<http://oregonpediatricsociety.org/advocacy/oregonians-for-healthy-children/immunization-education-campaign/faqs/>

Legislative Brief (from the Oregon Pediatric Society):

<http://oregonpediatricsociety.org/advocacy/oregonians-for-healthy-children/immunization-education-campaign/leg-one-pager/>