

School Immunizations

What waivers are accepted at schools?



Health waiver

Medical reasons

Who decides?

Licensed health care provider

When it is used:

- ☒ Child has a disease or are taking a medication that weakens their immune system.
- ☒ Child has a severe allergy to the vaccine or one of its components.
- ☒ Child has had a serious reaction to the vaccine in the past.



Religious waiver

Religious reasons

Who decides?

Parent/guardian

No major world religion explicitly forbids vaccinations, but some may oppose them based on interpretation of doctrine such as:

- ☒ Reliance on faith-based healing.
- ☒ Use of fetal cell lines in development.



Personal conviction waiver

Personal beliefs

Who decides?

Parent/guardian

A personal conviction waiver allows parents or guardians to choose not to vaccinate their child based on their own personal beliefs.

Talk to a trusted health care provider or your local health department if you have questions, concerns, or hesitations about vaccines.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

Division of Public Health
Bureau of Communicable Diseases
Immunization Program
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**Questions about vaccine safety
or effectiveness?**

Visit our website for resources and answers to common questions or talk to your trusted health care provider.

School Immunizations

What happens if your child is unvaccinated or behind schedule?



Your child can get sick



Vaccines were created to protect children from diseases that can cause serious illness, disabilities, or even death.

Examples of vaccine preventable diseases:

- Measles
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Tetanus
- Meningococcal disease
- Polio
- Chickenpox

Your child can get others sick



Children who are not vaccinated and get infected can spread the disease to others even before showing symptoms. They can spread it to high-risk people such as babies who are too young to get vaccinated, the elderly, pregnant people, and those who have a very weak immune system.

Your child may be excluded from school



If there is an exposure at school or an outbreak, your child may be excluded from school. This is to protect them as well as others from getting the disease.

Example of how exclusion works (measles)



Exposure

Your child was exposed to measles.



Day 1–6 after exposure

Your child may attend school if not symptomatic.



Day 7–21 after exposure

Your child may **not** be able to attend school or other childcare settings.



No illness develops

Your child returns to school after the exclusion period.



This repeats every time your child is exposed. In an outbreak setting, they may miss a significant amount of school due to multiple exposures.

