



## Connecticut School Immunization Requirements

### Connecticut School Immunization Laws

Connecticut law generally requires students to be immunized against specified diseases prior to enrolling in public or private school ([CGS § 10-204a](#) and [Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-204a-1 et seq.](#)).

The schedule is determined by the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner based on the recommendations of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians ([CGS § 19a-7f](#)).

The same requirements for school children apply to participants at child care settings (i.e., day care centers, family and group day care homes, and youth camps). Municipal day camps are not licensed by the state and are therefore exempt from immunization requirements.

For full-time students attending in-state post-secondary institutions (e.g., colleges and universities), the law requires students to provide proof of adequate immunization against MMR, chicken pox, and meningitis (only if living in on-campus housing) ([CGS §§ 10a-155](#) and [155b](#)).

### Required School Immunizations

Disease	Notes
Measles, mumps, and rubella	"MMR" vaccine
Polio	
Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis	"TDAP" or "DTAP" vaccine
Hemophilus influenza B	Required only if under age 5
Hepatitis A and hepatitis B	
Varicella	Chicken pox vaccine
Influenza	Required only for preschool
Pneumonia	Required only if under age 5
Meningitis	Required beginning in 7 <sup>th</sup> grade

Statutory Citations: [CGS § 10-204a](#) and [Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-204a-1 et seq.](#)

# STATE EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS



Source: Adapted from the LexisNexis StateNet Database and the Immunization Action Coalition, May 2019.

\* The existing statute in Minnesota and Louisiana does not explicitly recognize religion as a reason for claiming an exemption, however, as a practical matter, the non-medical exemption may encompass religious beliefs.

\*\*In Virginia, parents can receive a personal exemption only for the HPV vaccine.

\*\*\*Missouri's personal belief exemption does not apply to public schools, only child care facilities.

- All 50 states, including Connecticut, provide a medical exemption from school immunization requirements
- Connecticut is one of 45 states that also provides a non-medical exemption (i.e. religious or philosophical) exemption from these requirements
- Fifteen states (Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin) have a philosophical exemption from these requirements

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, States with Religious or Philosophical Exemptions from School Immunization Requirements: June 2020

## Connecticut's Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

**Medical Exemptions.** To receive a medical exemption from immunization requirements, a child must present a (1) DPH medical exemption form and (2) signed letter from a physician, physician assistant, or APRN stating that the immunization is medically contraindicated along with other specified information ([CGS § 10-204a](#) & [Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-204a et seq.](#)).

**Religious Exemptions.** The state has never had a philosophical exemption but implemented both a medical and religious exemption in 1959 (PA 59-588). To receive a religious exemption, parents or guardians must present a statement that immunization would be contrary to the religious beliefs of the child, parents, or guardian.

The statement must be officially acknowledged by one of specified individuals (e.g., notary public or school nurse) and submitted before the student (1) initially enrolls in school or (2) enrolls in seventh grade.

## Recent Legislation

In 2019, the Public Health Committee chairs convened a bipartisan working group to draft legislation on school immunization requirements.

During the 2020 regular legislative session, the Public Health Committee voted out two bills on this topic; neither was enacted into law. (Note: the session was effectively suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislature will likely consider similar legislation again in 2021.)

- **HB 5044, An Act Concerning Immunizations:** proposed to eliminate the religious exemption and grandfather in those children who submit a religious exemption prior to the bill's passage
- **HB 5043, An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Certain Immunization Consultations:** proposed to require certain health insurance policies to cover 20-minute immunization consultations between patients and providers

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"Nonmedical Exemptions from Childhood Immunization Requirements," OLR Report [2019-R-0235](#)

"States Without Religious Exemptions to Childhood Immunization Requirements," OLR Report [2019-R-0241](#)

"Public Education Options for Students Who Opt Not to be Immunized," OLR Report [2019-R-0243](#)

"Connecticut's School Immunization Requirements," OLR Report [2019-R-0245](#)

"Procedures for Excluding Unvaccinated Students," OLR Report [2019-R-0300](#)

"New Jersey Legislation on School Immunization Requirements," OLR Report [2020-R-0062](#)

"School Immunization Data Reporting," OLR Report [2020-R-0064](#)

"Philosophical Exemption from School Immunization Requirements," [2020-R-0066](#)

