

All 50 States have vaccination requirements for children entering into school. The States vary on exemptions for personal and religious grounds.

- 45 states and Washington D.C. grant religious exemptions
- 15 states allow philosophical exemptions for personal, moral, or other beliefs

Citation: *States With Religious and Philosophical Exemptions From School Immunization Requirements*, NCSL (June 14, 2019), <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/school-immunization-exemption-state-laws.aspx>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 1,250 cases of measles across 31 states through October 3, 2019, which is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992. The majority of cases are among people who were not vaccinated.

Citation: Center for Disease Control, <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html> (last visited Oct. 20, 2019).

In 2019, 26 state legislatures introduced bills to restrict vaccine exemptions for either personal or religious reasons. Of the four states to enact legislation in 2019, two have had outbreaks of preventable disease such as the measles in recent years, California in 2015 at Disneyland and New York where the majority of measles outbreaks this year are concentrated.

Enacted Legislation:

2019:

California – Senate Bill 276 required state health department to review doctor's exemption forms if that doctor has issued more than five medical exemptions in a year or in school districts with low immunization rates. Senate Bill 714 grandfathered in all medical exemptions prior to 1/1 when SB 276 goes into effect.

State of Washington – House Bill 1638 which removed personal belief exemption for measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine requirement in public schools, private schools, and day care centers.

Maine – House Bill 586 which removed personal and religious belief exemptions from public schools

New York – Senate Bill 2994 which removed religious exemption from public schools

2017:

Indiana – House Bill 1069 added meningitis to the required list of immunizations for students enrolled in a state postsecondary educational institution

Utah – House Bill 308 required an online education module; amended the grounds for exemptions; allowed for completion of vaccination exemption form online; prevented local health departments to vaccinate students and recover costs among other provisions.

2016:

Delaware – House Bill 91 added language to current religious exemptions; provision that unvaccinated children are excluded from attendance if there is an outbreak of a preventable disease.

Minnesota – House Bill 2749 expanded current required immunization requirements and exemptions to pre-k programs.

2015:

California – Senate Bill 277 removed philosophical exemptions based on personal beliefs.

Connecticut – House Bill 6949 required that a religious exemption must be an annual, notarized statement by the parents or guardians.

Illinois – Senate Bill 1410 required exemption data from all public schools must be available to the public; parents or guardians must detail the objection, have a health care providers' signature, and submit it before kindergarten, sixth and ninth grades.

South Dakota – required the sharing of immunization records with health care providers, federal and state health agencies, child welfare agencies, and schools.

Vermont – House Bill 98 repealed the personal belief exemption. The first state to do so.

West Virginia – Senate Bill 286 required certification by a physician if claiming a medical exemption.

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