

Immunization Waiver Policy

In 2015 Michigan adopted new rules to the public health code that requires parents and guardians to receive vaccine education from local public health prior to waiving any school required immunizations. Many diseases that have been eliminated, or had become rare, are making a comeback. Chickenpox and whooping cough (pertussis) outbreaks continue to happen in our schools. While many people may only become moderately ill with these diseases, the most vulnerable in our community; infants and those with chronic medical conditions, could suffer serious consequences such as hospitalization and death. Healthy individuals can also develop these severe consequences.

It is our responsibility to ensure that parents/guardians have an opportunity to have their questions answered, discuss concerns, and be offered scientific-based education on the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease before signing a waiver.

What if you don't immunize your child?

- Your child is at greater risk of catching a vaccine-preventable disease
- Your child may infect others in our community if they come down with the disease
- Your child may be excluded from daycare, pre-school, or school for several days or weeks to prevent them catching or spreading a vaccine-preventable disease

What to do to obtain a certified waiver:

We strongly encourage you to immunize your child, but if you have chosen to waive your child's immunizations, you must make an appointment at the Washtenaw County Public Health Immunization Clinic and speak with a nurse. The clinic is located at 555 Towner Street in Ypsilanti. To make an appointment, call 734-544-6700.

Please note that the schools will no longer have waivers. You must receive a certified waiver from the health department for it to be a valid waiver.

If a child has a medical contraindication to receiving vaccines, a signed Medical Contraindication Form must be obtained from your doctor. The form can be found at www.michigan.gov/immunize under the Health Care Professionals/Providers link.

WCHD does not provide waivers for camps, as that is not mandated by state law. If a waiver must be obtained for a camp please see your physician.

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