



Gallatin City-County Health Department

www.gallatin.mt.gov/health

Human Services
215 W. Mendenhall, Rm 117
Bozeman, MT 59715-3478
(406) 582-3100 • Fax (406) 582-3112

Environmental Health Services
215 W. Mendenhall, Rm 108
Bozeman, MT 59715-3478
406-582-3120 • Fax: 406-582-3128

Dear Parent /Guardian,

You have reported to your child's school a medical or religious exemption for immunizations. Please read the following information regarding immunizations, exemptions, and the risks of attending school without being fully immunized. If you still decide to pursue an exemption, please sign below acknowledging you have read this information and return it to your school.

School immunization requirements are in place to protect your child and all children at our schools from diseases that cause serious illness. While medical exemptions are sometimes appropriate and necessary, unwarranted use of exemptions increases the risk of disease transmission and illness for all students, particularly those who have underlying medical conditions that affect their immune systems. If a disease outbreak occurs at a school, under-immunized children are at greater risk of becoming ill themselves and exacerbating the outbreak by passing the illness on to other students and our community.

If such an outbreak occurs, you should be aware that children who are not up to date on immunizations may be excluded from school by the Health Officer at Gallatin City-County Health Department (GCCHD) for an extended period of time, perhaps as long as several weeks depending on the severity and the scope of the outbreak. GCCHD follows CDC guidance during a school outbreak. While the decision to exclude students is difficult, the Health Officer will take action to contain disease outbreaks to protect students, staff and the community.

The intent of these rules and procedures is to protect our children and our community from diseases which can be prevented. If a vaccine-preventable disease is identified in the school your child attends, the following procedure will be followed:

1. A health care provider, school district nurse, or a medical laboratory will notify GCCHD, which manages response to communicable disease cases and outbreaks.
2. GCCHD investigates the matter to determine those individuals who are deemed close contacts and notifies them of their risk, as well as treatment options.
3. Those deemed close contacts may be asked to take measures to reduce transmission of the disease. Those deemed close contacts may also be asked to complete recommended treatment or prophylaxis. Students without school mandated immunizations or close contacts who choose to not follow the recommended measures to contain spread of disease may be excluded from school by the Health Officer for an indefinite period of time.
4. Those students who have a conditional attendance form for immunizations may also be excluded from school if GCCHD determines it necessary. Students who have a conditional attendance plan must adhere to their plan, or risk being excluded from school until their immunizations are up to date.

Thank you for taking the time to read this statement. We appreciate your effort in keeping Gallatin County Schools a healthy environment for our students, staff and families.

Best regards,

Matt Kelley, MPH
Gallatin County Health Officer
Gallatin City County Health Department

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read all of the information above and understand that my child's exemption from immunization means that he/she/they may be at greater risk to contract and spread communicable diseases. I also understand that my child may be excluded from school for an extended period of time if the Health Officer of Gallatin City-County Health Department determines that he/she/they is/are at risk during a disease outbreak.

Child's Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date