



# Helena Public Schools

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Dear Parent/Guardian;

You have provided a medical or religious exemption for immunizations(s) or a conditional attendance form for immunizations(s) in order for your child to attend school in the Helena School District. Please read the following information regarding immunizations at school, sign on the line below and return the white form to your School Nurse.

School immunization laws were first established to control disease outbreaks and have been used to avoid epidemics of vaccine-preventable contagious diseases. States require vaccines because they have a responsibility to protect both individuals and the entire population of their state. Montana currently has two vaccine exemptions allowed for immunizations: religious and medical. Additionally, a conditional attendance form is used to allow children to attend school while "catching up" on their immunizations. Students without immunizations or those who have an incomplete vaccine status are at risk for contracting and communicating vaccine-preventable diseases.

If a vaccine-preventable, reportable disease is identified in the school your child attends, the following procedure will be followed:

- The School Nurse communicates with the Lewis and Clark City County Health Department (LCCCHD). LCCCHD will then manage the disease outbreak.
- The LCCCHD determines those individuals who are deemed close contacts and notifies them of their risk as well as treatment options.
- Students who are considered close contacts and students without school mandated immunizations may be excluded from school for up to **30 days** for each potential exposure.
- Students who have been identified as close contacts may also be required to complete LCCCHD treatment recommendations or have a proof of a negative disease status before they are allowed to return to school.
- Students who have a conditional attendance form for immunizations may also be excluded from school if the LCCCHD determines it is necessary. In addition, these students must adhere to the schedule for receipt of immunizations outlined on their conditional enrollment form or risk being excluded from school until the immunizations are up to date or another plan is completed.

Helena School District School Nurses or Immunization Nurses at the LCCCHD would be happy to discuss concerns you may have about vaccinating your child. For the safety of your child and for the community, we encourage all children and adults to be immunized for vaccine-preventable diseases. We appreciate your effort in keeping Helena Schools a healthy environment for students.

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Parent Signature

Date