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Director

Terry E. Branstad
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Kim Reynolds
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July 28, 2015

Dear Immunization Partners,

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Immunization Program has made changes to the Certificate of Immunization Exemption. The changes are consistent with Iowa Code and Administrative rules and are intended to make the provisions of the certificate clearer for health care providers and the public.

The Certificate of Immunization Exemption dated, June 2015 will be phased in effective immediately. Previous versions of the certificate are valid and do not need to be replaced. Please dispose of blank versions of the Certificate of Immunization Exemption with a revision date prior to June 2015. The Certificate of Immunization Exemption has been updated on the [Immunization Program webpage](#) and is available to order from the Health Protection Clearinghouse.

- Call 888-398-9696
- Online – [Immunization Forms and Downloads webpage](#)

The following is a detailed list of the changes to the certificate:

- The Certificate of Immunization Exemption will become two separate documents; Certificate of Immunization Exemption - Medical and Certificate of Immunization Exemption – Religious. This change is a result of adding additional information to the certificate.

Medical Exemption

- Language was added to the first paragraph to clarify the reason a medical exemption could be granted due to contact with a member of the applicant’s family or household: “Contraindication due to contact with family or household member applies only to MMR and varicella vaccine.”
- The “List vaccine(s):” section was replaced with a section for the health care provider to select which required vaccine(s) the child is exempt from receiving.
- Language was added to the second paragraph to define the minimum interval between doses of live virus vaccines: “Administration of the following required vaccine(s) would violate minimum interval spacing of at least 28 days from a dose of a previously received live vaccine.”
- Language was added to the second paragraph to include a section for the health care provider to select the live virus vaccines the child is exempted from receiving due to minimum interval spacing requirements.
- Exclusion from school – additional language was added to this section to provide a potential length of time a student could be excluded from school during an outbreak: “The length of time a child is excluded from child care or school will vary depending on the type of disease and the circumstances surrounding the outbreak, and could range from several days to over a month.”
- Language was added above the signature block to outline what the health care provider is agreeing to by signing the certificate: “By signing this certificate, I certify the immunizations specified on this certificate would be injurious to the health of the applicant, to a member of the applicant’s family or household, or the required vaccine would violate a minimum interval spacing.”
- A field was added for the health care provider to print their name.

- A field was added for the health care provider to write their Iowa License Number.

Religious Exemption

- Exclusion from school – additional language was added to this section to provide a potential length of time a student could be excluded from school during an outbreak: “The length of time a child is excluded from child care or school will vary depending on the type of disease and the circumstances surrounding the outbreak, and could range from several days to over a month.”
- Language was added above the signature block to outline what the parent or guardian is agreeing to by signing the certificate:
“By signing this form, I acknowledge the Iowa Department of Public Health has published information regarding immunizations on the Department’s website, including:
 - Information that failure to complete the required immunizations increases the risk to my child and others of contracting, carrying, and spreading a vaccine-preventable disease; and
 - Information that there are children with special health needs attending schools and child care who are unable to be vaccinated or who are at a heightened risk of contracting a vaccine-preventable disease and for whom such a disease could be life-threatening.”

A [Question and Answer document](#) has been created regarding the changes to the Certificate of Immunization Exemption and is available on the Immunization Program webpage. If you have additional questions contact the Immunization Program at 1-800-831-6293.

Sincerely,



Bethany Kintigh RN, BSN
Immunization Program Manager