

# Religious Exemption from Immunization Requirements

## Chelmsford Public Schools

Philosophical exemptions are not allowed by law in Massachusetts, even if signed by a physician. Only medical and religious exemptions are acceptable. These exemptions must be kept in the students' files at school (105CMR 220.000 and M.G.L. c.76, ss. 15, 15C and 15D).

I understand that when a case of a vaccine-preventable disease emerges, susceptible individuals (including those with medical or religious exemptions) who are not immunized will need to be excluded for the appropriate time periods, as outlined in *Reportable Diseases, Surveillance, and Isolation & Quarantine Requirements (105 CMR 300.000)*.

I also understand I will be asked annually to submit in writing, my child's immunization exemption status. I may also choose to have my child immunized against certain diseases but remain exempt from others, based on my religious beliefs.

As a parent (or guardian) of \_\_\_\_\_, a minor enrolled in the Chelmsford Public Schools system, I request that he/she be exempt from immunization requirements, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 76, Section 15, General Laws of Massachusetts, because such requirements conflict with our sincere religious beliefs.

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

"In the absence of an emergency or epidemic of disease declared by the Department of Public Health, no child whose parents or guardian states in writing that vaccination or immunization conflicts with his sincere religious beliefs shall be required to present said physician's certificate in order to be admitted to school"

Chapter 76, Section 15  
Massachusetts General Laws