

The Georgia Law - O.C.G.A. § 20-2-771

§ 20-2-771. Immunization of students

(e) This Code section shall not apply to a child whose parent or legal guardian objects to immunization of the child on the grounds that the immunization conflicts with the religious beliefs of the parent or guardian; however, the immunization may be required in cases when such disease is in epidemic stages. For a child to be exempt from immunization on religious grounds, the parent or guardian must first furnish the responsible official of the school or facility an affidavit in which the parent or guardian swears or affirms that the immunization required conflicts with the religious beliefs of the parent or guardian.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC HEALTH (website)

<https://dph.georgia.gov/schoolvaccines>

Religious Exemption

In the state of Georgia, if there is a religious objection to the vaccination of a child, a completed affidavit on **Form 2208** is required. After completion of the affidavit, the parent or legal guardian must have the form filed with the school or childcare facility the child will be attending as legal documentation of exemption from the required immunizations mentioned above.

In the event an epidemic or threat of epidemic is determined, please refer to the *DPH Rules and Regulations for Schools and Childcare Facilities, Chapter 511-2-2* document below for additional information.

Religious exemption

(from the Immunization Guidelines for Schools and Childcare Facilities brochure of the Georgia Department of Public Health)

- For a child to be exempt from immunizations on religious grounds, the parent or guardian must furnish the school/childcare facility with a notarized Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization (DPH Form 2208).
- This Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization form should be filed instead of the Georgia Immunization Certificate (Form 3231). The affidavit does not expire.

AFFIDAVIT OF RELIGIOUS OBJECTION TO IMMUNIZATION

_____ (name of parent or guardian) personally appeared before the undersigned notary public and swore or affirmed as follows:

1. I am the parent or legal guardian of _____ (name of minor child), born on _____ (date of birth).
2. I understand that the Georgia Department of Public Health requires children to obtain vaccinations against the following diseases before being admitted to a child care facility or school: diphtheria; Haemophilus influenzae type B (not required on or after the fifth birthday); hepatitis A; hepatitis B; measles; meningitis; mumps; pertussis (whooping cough); pneumococcal disease (not required on or after the fifth birthday); poliomyelitis; rubella (German measles); tetanus; and varicella (chickenpox).
3. I understand that the Georgia Department of Public Health has determined:
 - a. that the required vaccinations are necessary to prevent the spread of dangerous diseases among the children and people of this State;
 - b. that the required vaccinations are safe;
 - c. that a child who does not receive the required vaccinations is at risk of contracting those diseases; and
 - d. that a child who does not receive the required vaccinations is at risk of spreading these diseases to me, to other children in the child care facility or school, and to other persons.
4. I sincerely affirm that vaccination is contrary to my religious beliefs, and that my objections to vaccination are not based solely on grounds of personal philosophy or inconvenience.
5. I understand that, notwithstanding my religious objections, my child may be excluded from child care facilities or schools during an epidemic or threatened epidemic of any disease preventable by a vaccination required by the Georgia Department of Public Health, and that my child may be required to receive a vaccination in the event that such a disease is in epidemic stages, as provided in Georgia Code Section 31-12-3 and DPH Rule 511-9-1-.03(2)(d).

This ____ day of _____, _____.

Parent or Legal Guardian

Sworn and subscribed before me
this ____ day of _____, _____.

Notary Public
My commission expires _____.