



Washtenaw County
Health Department

555 Towner St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Immunization Waiver Policy for Parents

In 2015 Michigan adopted new rules to the public health code that requires parents and guardians to receive vaccine education from local public health prior to waiving any school required immunizations. Many diseases that have been eliminated, or had become rare, are making a comeback. Communicable disease outbreaks continue to happen in our schools. While many people may only become moderately ill with these diseases, the most vulnerable in our community; infants and those with chronic medical conditions, could suffer serious consequences such as hospitalization and death. Healthy individuals can also develop these severe consequences.

It is our responsibility to ensure that parents/guardians have an opportunity to ask questions, discuss concerns and receive science-based education on the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease before signing a waiver.

What if you don't immunize your child?

- Your child is at greater risk of catching a vaccine-preventable disease
- Your child may infect others in our community if they come down with the disease
- Your child may be excluded from daycare, pre-school, or school for several days or weeks to prevent them catching or spreading a vaccine-preventable disease

What to do to obtain a certified waiver:

We strongly encourage you to immunize your child, but if you have chosen to waive your child's immunizations, you must make an appointment at the Washtenaw County Health Department to speak with a nurse. The clinic is located at 555 Towner Street in Ypsilanti. To make an appointment, call 734-544-6700.

Please note that the schools will no longer have waivers. Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) will issue a certified waiver following your appointment. The original, unaltered waiver must be turned into the school. The state waiver is the only waiver accepted for school entry.

If a child has a medical contraindication to receiving vaccines, a signed Medical Contraindication Form must be obtained from your doctor. The form can be found at www.michigan.gov/immunize under the Health Care Professionals/Providers link.

WCHD does not provide waivers for camps, as that is not mandated by state law. If a waiver must be obtained for a camp please see your physician.