HEALTH FREEDOM OHIO

K–12 Parent Exemption & Documentation Guide

Ohio school immunization requirements • Parent reference and editable statement • November 2026

1 | What Ohio law provides

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3313.671 sets immunization documentation requirements for covered elementary and high schools. It also identifies exceptions. The applicable provisions are in division (B).

- Reasons of conscience, including religious convictions: A parent or guardian may provide a written statement declining immunization. ORC 3313.671(B)(4).
- Medical contraindication: A physician must certify in writing that immunization against the particular disease is medically contraindicated. ORC 3313.671(B)(5).
- Prior disease: Signed parent, guardian, or physician statements documenting natural measles (rubeola), mumps, or chickenpox may satisfy the corresponding disease-specific exceptions. ORC 3313.671(B)(1)–(3).

2 | Timing and school records

The statute generally provides a 14-day period after initial entry or the start of each school year to present satisfactory immunization evidence, qualify as being in the process of immunization, or establish an applicable exception. Do not assume that a partial series meets the statutory “in process” definition; specific conditions apply.

For a reasons-of-conscience exemption, provide the written, signed parent/guardian statement to the school office or designated records administrator. Ask how the school will record receipt and retain a copy for your files. The law does not prescribe a single statewide form for this statement.

3 | Parent submission checklist

☐ Confirm the school name, student name, and applicable grade/year.

☐ Identify the exemption category that accurately applies.

☐ Prepare and sign the parent/guardian statement; specify the immunizations being declined if helpful.

☐ Submit to the school office or designated administrator and request written acknowledgment.

☐ Keep a dated copy of the statement and all school correspondence.

☐ Ask the school to identify any additional procedural requirements or outbreak-related exclusions in writing.

4 | Important limitations

ORC 3313.671(C) allows temporary denial of admission to certain chickenpox-exempt students during a qualifying chickenpox epidemic following notice from the state health director. Other public-health rules or orders may apply in an outbreak. An exemption from routine immunization requirements should not be described as an absolute guarantee against temporary exclusion.

Separate from exemptions, ORC 3792.04 restricts specified public schools from requiring vaccines without full FDA approval; it does not replace the exemption process under ORC 3313.671.

Sample Parent Statement

REASONS-OF-CONSCIENCE IMMUNIZATION DECLINATION • ORC 3313.671(B)(4)

This editable example is not an official state form. Use only if it accurately reflects your decision.

Date: _____

School / District: _____

Student name: _____

To the School Administrator:

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3313.671(B)(4), I am the parent or legal guardian of the student identified above. I decline to have this student immunized for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions where applicable. I request that this written statement be retained with the student's immunization records as documentation of the statutory exception.

Immunization(s) declined (optional clarification):

_____

_____

Please confirm receipt of this statement and advise me in writing if any additional documentation is requested, identifying the applicable legal authority.

Parent / Guardian name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contact information (optional): _____

If the school requests more information

Ask for the request and the cited law or policy in writing. Avoid submitting private medical or religious details beyond what is necessary for the exemption category you are using. For a medical contraindication, use the physician certification required by the statute rather than this parent reasons-of-conscience sample.

Official Ohio sources

ORC 3313.671 — https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3313.671

ORC 3313.67 — https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3313.67

ORC 3792.04 — https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3792.04

Educational information only; not individualized legal advice. Verify current law and applicable school/public-health policies before relying on this guide.