

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires children and adolescents attending elementary or secondary school in Ontario to show proof of immunization against ISPA's designated diseases, unless they have a valid medical or religious/philosophical exemption on file at their local public health unit.

For a list of ISPA designated diseases please follow this link:

<https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/ispa.aspx>

To obtain a religious/philosophical exemption for your school-aged child under Ontario's legislation, the parent or legal guardian **must** complete the following **two steps**:

1. Complete an online education module on Immunizations in Ontario.
 - Completion is done by watching a video on YouTube from the Ontario Ministry of Health.
 - Find the video at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlvdduUFUMk&ab_channel=OntarioCommunications
 - The online education video will take about 30 minutes to complete.
 - The video addresses the risks and benefits of immunization, how vaccines work, herd immunity, vaccine safety, and immunization schedules. The information in this module has been put together to help you make an informed decision.
 - After watching the video, please call KFL&A Public Health's Immunization Team at (613) 549-1232 x1451, to generate your online education module certificate and discuss any further questions.
 - The original education module certificate can be picked up at KFL&A Public Health, 221 Portsmouth Avenue in Kingston or sent via mail. The certificate may also be picked up at the time of submission of the necessary form found in Step 2.
 - The certificate is not certifying exemption completion. Step 2 must be completed.

2. Complete the Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief form.
 - A blank copy of the form can be found at the following link:
[https://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/70727b4cff4fea2f852575d100614b8a/3b7b94b0995f7fb38525818d00782f5b/\\$FILE/4897-64E.pdf](https://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/70727b4cff4fea2f852575d100614b8a/3b7b94b0995f7fb38525818d00782f5b/$FILE/4897-64E.pdf)
 - Once filled in, the parent/guardian must have it signed and sworn or affirmed before a commissioner for taking affidavits under the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Immunization of School Pupils Act.
 - A commissioner of oaths for taking affidavits can be searched at the following website (*a fee may be applied by the commissioner*):
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-notary-public-or-commissioner-oaths-taking-affidavits>

- The parent or legal guardian **must** provide the **original** signed and sworn document to KFL&A Public Health office in person. KFL&A Public Health cannot legally accept a fax or photocopy of the affidavit.
- Please keep a copy of the affidavit for the parent/guardian's records. To note, if the child moves to an area served by another public health agency, you may be required to complete another affidavit at that time. If the parent/guardian wishes to have an original copy, please have the commissioner complete two affidavits.

Please note, that an original Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief that has been witnessed by a commissioner for taking affidavits and the online education module certificate are **both** required to apply the immunization exemption as valid in our records.

If you have any questions regarding the exemption process, please call the KFL&A Public Health Immunization Team directly at 613-549-1232 x1451.

Regards,
KFL&A Public Health Immunization Team