

Religious Exemptions

- 1. Can a student in IL have a religious exemption from the physical if all the proper paperwork is filled out?**

Per [Section 665.510](#), if a parent/guardian objects to a health examination on religious grounds they must present a signed Certificate of Exemption detailing grounds for the objections. The Certificate of Religious Exemption must be signed by the health care provider responsible for the health exam confirming education was provided to the parent/guardian on benefits and health risks. The Certificate of Religious Exemption must be submitted prior to entering grade levels K, 6 and 9.

- 2. If a student was in 3rd grade with a religious exemption then homeschooled for 4th grade then returned to the district for 5th grade, is a new religious exemption form needed?**

No. [Section 665.510](#) states parents or legal guardians must submit the Certificate of Religious Exemption to their local school authority prior to entering grades K, 6 and 9.

- 3. Parents are having trouble in our district finding a provider who will do a physical exam if the parent objects to vaccines. Options?**

The child health examination is a requirement; therefore, the parent/guardian should look for another physician.

Lead screening & Tuberculosis Screening

- 4. A school nurse can complete the lead portion with the questionnaire. Can the school nurse complete the DM section by questioning the family of ethnicity, assess the BMI and other criteria to complete that portion as well?**

The Diabetes screening is a required component of the Child Health Exam. If a school nurse completes that section, it must be reviewed and signed according to [Section 665.130](#) of the Child Health Examination Code, a physician is required to review and sign any portion of the Certificate of Child Health Examination completed by a registered nurse who is not an advanced practice nurse.

In regards to the lead section, the Lead Poisoning Prevention Code, [Section 845.55](#), permits a nurse as a health care provider to perform the Lead Risk Questionnaire. The school nurse may perform the Lead Risk Questionnaire then refer the student to the provider if a blood test is indicated.

- 5. The lead questionnaire should be completed on all children 1-7 regardless of level of risk, but the blood test is only indicated if the child is at high risk? is that right?**

Yes. Per [Section 665.140](#) lead screening is a required part of the health examination for children 1-7 years of age. The lead section must be completed indicating that the child has been risk-assessed using the Lead Risk Assessment Questionnaire if the child resides in an area defined as low risk by the Department (IDPH), or screened (Blood Lead Tested) for lead poisoning if the child resides in an area defined as high risk. (Section 6.2 of the [Lead Poisoning Prevention Act](#)).

- 6. Can you clarify the lead and TB requirements? I thought it was said that the screen was required only if the student lives in a high-risk area as designated by IDPH?**

The lead section must be completed indicating that the child has been risk-assessed using the Lead Risk Assessment Questionnaire if the child resides in an area defined as low risk by the Department (IDPH), or screened (Blood Lead Tested) for lead poisoning if the child resides in an area defined as high risk. (Section 6.2 of the [Lead Poisoning Prevention Act](#)).

The health care provider must complete the TB section indicating that the child was assessed for risk of tuberculosis and indicate whether a test is not need or if a test was performed.

- 7. Where can we find out if an area is identified as high risk for TB?**

Refer to the [Tuberculosis Risk Assessment Form](#).

Out of state physical exam requirements

- 8. What if you are a 5th grader and moved to IL from AZ. The new student has a kind. physical from AZ. Does that suffice? Or does the student need a new physical because entry into IL?**

Out of state forms are accepted only for students transferring into Illinois schools for the first-time. The exam must have been completed within one year prior to the date of entry into an Illinois school and must cover all "required" elements as listed on the Certificate of Child Health Examination form. Refer to [Section 665.150](#)

- 9. Foreign exchange students that have an organizations health form, is it acceptable for the one year they will be attending? their parents are in the home country.**

Per [Section 665.150](#) a health form comparable to the Illinois requirements is acceptable only at the time of first entry into an Illinois school. Students from other countries regardless of duration of stay must have an examination within one year before the date of entering school **and** at the required intervals K, 6 and 9. Once enrolled, the student should comply with the health exams and screenings at the required intervals.

10. Can an out of state physical be accepted at the 6th and 9th grade level or just at the KG level?

Out of state forms are accepted only for students transferring into Illinois schools for the first time. The exam must have been completed within one year prior to the date of entry into an Illinois school and must cover all “required” elements as listed on the Certificate of Child Health Examination form. Refer to [Section 665.150](#)

In-State transfer or re-entry to Illinois school

11. If a 4th grader came to school in 2019-2020 but homeschooled from 2020-2021, do they need to submit an updated physical exam for 2021-2022?

In this example, the student is entering 6th grade for the 2021-2022 school year; therefore, a health examination conducted within one year before entering 6th grade is required.

Health history

12. Can one accept a verbal health history, taken over the phone with the parent?

The health history is a required component of the form. [Section 665.150](#) states the medical history section of the form shall be completed and signed by the parent or legal guardian of the student. If the school nurse takes a verbal health history over the phone, the form must be sent back to the parent/guardian to be signed.

13. If we cannot accept a verbal confirmation for the health history and we have mailed home the health history and the parent has not returned it after several attempts, would we exclude that student since the physical is technically not complete?

The parent section health history is a required component of the health exam and shall be completed and signed by the parent or legal guardian of the student. If the submitted is incomplete, please refer to local policy and procedures to ensure the form is completed as well as to address exclusion for incompleteness.

- 14. For the health history portion - can a parent fill out the health history portion a few months prior to a physical being complete? We ask parents to fill this piece out at registration in February ... however some students don't get their physical until the summer. If the health history is not complete on the physical, can I attach the completed form from February to make the physical form complete?**

Yes. You can attach the health history completed, dated, and signed by the parent/guardian to the Child Health Examination Form.

- 15. Several years ago, we were told at School Health Days that the school nurse could fill out the health history with the parent if it was not completed. there are so many physicals turned in without it. We then sign the form and write that it was completed over the phone with the parent. this helped compliance so much.**

Please discuss with your local administration and review local policies for how incomplete child health exam forms are addressed at the local level.

- 16. Do PreK students require a new physical each year?**

No. Per [Section 665.140](#) the health examination should be conducted within one year before entering pre-kindergarten. In programs operated by elementary school systems or secondary level school units or institutions of high learning, health examinations are recommended for children under five years of age at intervals of not less than two years.

Diabetes Screening

- 17. If the diabetes section is not complete. Can it still be used for registration?**

[Section 665.700](#) states a diabetes screening shall be included as part of the required part of each health examination. The results of the diabetes screening must be documented on the Certificate of Child Health Examination Form. The form should be sent back for completion by the health care provider. Please refer to your local policies and procedures as to whether an incomplete physical form is acceptable for registration.

- 18. For the diabetes screening, it says "and any two of the following". Most doctors only 2 boxes. Should we be sending them back for doctors to complete the section completely?**

Yes. The form should be sent back for completion by the health care provider. Diabetes screening is part of each mandated health examination and the results of the diabetes risk assessment must be documented in the Certificate of Child Health Examination Form.

- 19. For the diabetes screening - do all sections need to be checked "yes" or "no" for completion (BMI, family history, ethnic minority, signs of insulin resistance, at risk) or just the BMI question, and at-risk question?**

The entire diabetes screening section must be completed, as it is part of each mandated health examination.

- 20. For a student that was remote last year and didn't bring in physical. Now in next grade - how old can the physical be 1 yr. from last year or 1 yr. from this current year?**

A health exam conducted one year before entering a required grade level (K, 6, 9) is acceptable. If the student did not have an exam at the required grade level, then an examination is required within one year before entering the current school grade.

- 21. In previous years, we were told not to accept faxes from HCP offices to avoid exclusion, is that still the case?**

Please discuss this with your local administration and refer to local policies and procedures, to address whether a faxed copy is acceptable on a temporary basis until the original Child Health Exam form is submitted by the student/family.

- 22. IS a DR NOTE for APPT to get a PHYSICAL in k,6,9th, pre-k after October 15th mean the student is complying and does not get excluded? OR does this only apply to immunizations.**

An appointment card is acceptable for immunizations. Per the School Code 105 ILCS 5/27-8.1 part 5 "...If for medical reasons one or more of the required immunizations must be given after October 15 of the current school year, or after an earlier established date of the current school year, then the child shall present, by October 15, or by the earlier established date, a schedule for the administration of the immunizations and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay, both the schedule and the statement being issued by the physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, registered nurse, or local health department that will be responsible for administration of the remaining required immunizations."

The School Code is silent about appointments for physical exams. Please discuss any further questions with your district's administration and legal counsel.

Interval for physical exams

- 23. In terms of physicals for middle school, is it only required for incoming 6th grade students? No updated physicals will need to be collected for 7 or 8th graders?**

Per [Section 665.140](#), the examination shall be conducted within one year before entering grades K, 6 and 9. A health examination is not required for 7th and 8th grade.

- 24. If a 9th grade student was remote all year last year and did not complete the physical requirement, do they need the physical to return to in-person learning in 10th grade?**

All students enrolled in school should show proof of appropriate grade level requirements. Student who did not have an exam at the required grade intervals K, 6 and 9 must have a health examination prior to entering the current school year.

- 25. Explain exclusion please, as in your slide. Intent to comply by parent: does that mean an appointment? What if they miss the appointment or parent signs another as the same intent, how many times do we allow to remain in school?**

Students who are not compliant with child health exam and immunization requirements shall be excluded from school attendance according to School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-8.1). Discuss with your local administration and review local policies and procedures to address how many times notifications are sent. When appointments are accepted for immunization record, evidence of the immunization is to be provided to the school following that appointment. If appointments are repeatedly rescheduled, please discuss this with local administration to review local policies and procedures to ensure compliance with health exam and immunization requirements as written in school code. If the student qualifies as homeless according to McKinney Vento Act, please work with your local liaison to reduce barriers to access to obtaining required exams or immunizations.

Assisting families

- 26. Oftentimes the medical provider hasn't fully completed the CHE form i.e. does not indicate interscholastic sports, or TB test, or diabetes screen. When the parent returns the form, the HCP wants to charge for another visit. How can we help these families?**

To avoid having to be charged for another visit, instruct parents/guardians to make sure the form is completed prior to leaving the health care provider's office.

- 27. Where can we get a parental consent form?**

The Child Health Exam form consent for examination is established at the providers office and ISBE or IDPH do not have control for those forms. If a student qualifies as homeless and consent for the physical exam is needed, ISBE's [Certification of Minor Unaccompanied Youth Status for Health Care Form](#) may be obtained from ISBE's webpage. You may also contact your local Homeless Education Liaison to ensure steps are being taken to reduce barriers to education for the unaccompanied youth.

I-Care immunization portal

- 28. If a I Care report for immunizations is submitted w/ PX but no signature on Px form or I Care form is that still acceptable for the school**

The attached I-Care Report must be signed and dated by the health care provider, nurse in a physician's office, school nurse, record keeper in school, local health agency, etc.