

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Fireweed Academy

P.O. Box 474
Homer, AK 99603
(907) 235-9728 (phone) (907) 235-8561 (fax)
<http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/fireweed/>

April 10, 2013

Dear KPBSD Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that new immunization religious exemption form requirements will be implemented statewide for school attendance effective July 1, 2013.

Increases in vaccine exemptions pose a danger to Alaska children from the increased risk of contracting an infectious disease such as pertussis (whooping cough). Recent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases have been occurring in many states, including Alaska. In response, states across the country have been evaluating school and child care immunization requirements. The Alaska Immunization Program has worked in partnership with the Department of Education and Early Development, with support of the State Attorney General's Office, to update the process of filing for a religious exemption.

Beginning July 1, 2013, parents/guardians choosing to obtain a religious exemption for their child must comply with the following:

- Religious exemptions must be documented on the official *State of Alaska Religious Exemption Form* (Form revision date is 3/2013)
- Annual renewal of the exemption form is required (Previously signed religious exemption forms will not be grandfathered.)
- Religious exemption forms must be notarized

A copy of the new religious exemption form is included for your convenience. You can also find the form on the KPBSD website at <http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=9908>.

For assistance if questions arise, please contact your school nurse, Lisa Zatz at 235-9728 or call the Immunization Helpline directly at 888-430-4321.

Local School District Notaries

Diana Larson, Secretary, Homer High School (235-4600)

Jean Calhoun, Secretary, West Homer Elementary (235-5750)

Administrative staff will be at the schools beginning August 5th or 6th. Please call ahead to make sure the notary is available at either of these schools.

Your bank may have staff who will notarize something at no charge.



State of Alaska Religious Exemption Form

Effective July 1, 2013

This official State form is required for all religious exemptions

Children in Alaska public and private schools, preschools and child care facilities must be immunized in accordance with Alaska Administrative Codes 7 AAC 57.550 for child care affirming that immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of the church or religious denomination of which the parent or guardian is a member; or 4 AAC 06.055 for school affirming that immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of the church or religious denomination of which the applicant is a member.

(NOTE: Personal or philosophical exemptions are not allowed under Alaska regulations.)

If a religious exemption is applicable, the child's parent/guardian must complete the information below and return this form to the school, preschool, or child care facility. The form is required to be notarized and renewed annually.

Name of Child

Birth date

I/We affirm that immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of the church or religious denomination of which the applicant/parent/guardian is a member. I/We understand that if there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease that my child has not been fully immunized against, my child may be at risk for disease and may be excluded from school or child care until he/she is determined to no longer be at risk of developing the disease.

Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

Telephone

Date

(Form valid from July 1 through June 30)

State of _____

Judicial District _____ SS.

The Foregoing Instrument was acknowledged before me by

_____ on this _____ day of _____

Witness my hand and seal. _____, 20____.

Notary Public (Signature)

Notary's printed name

Notary's city

My commission expires _____