

Philosophical Exemption Instructions

Immunizations are required by law for children 0-18 years of age to attend a childcare centre or school in Ontario. A signed legal form is required if the parent/legal guardian chooses not to immunize their child/children for non-medical reasons. **Complete steps 1 to 4 below in order.**

1. As required by the Ministry of Health, the parent/legal guardian of a student must complete the Immunization Education Session in person at the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit – Clinic Services located at 177 King St. E. in Chatham. Please call for an appointment, 519.355.1071 ext. 5900.

The session consists of a computer learning module that will take at least 30 minutes to complete. A nurse will be available to answer any questions and provide the parent/legal guardian with an education certificate upon completion of the education session.

This learning module only needs to be completed once. The education certificate never expires and can be used for more than one child of the same family at any time in the future.

- Children 0 to 3 years of age require a Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA) Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief form. This exemption form expires on September 1 of the year the child turns four years of age.
 - Children 4 to 18 years of age require an Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief form.
2. Have the Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief Affidavit signed by one of the following officers of the court listed below. They may charge a fee to have the affidavit signed. This form will be provided at the education session or is available online at www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca. Under the Commissions for Taking Affidavits Act (Revised 1990), the following persons are authorized to sign affidavits:

A. In Ontario: Sec. 1. (1)

- Members of the Assembly
- Provincial Judges or Justices of the Peace
- Barrister and Solicitors entitled to practice law in Ontario

B. Local Municipality Sec. 1. (2) Municipality of Chatham-Kent

- Clerk or Deputy Clerk of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent (Civic Centre, 315 King St. W., Chatham)
- CSR (Customer Service Representative) at any Municipal office within Chatham-Kent

Photo ID is required for person(s) who will be signing as a parent/legal guardian.

3. Keep a copy of the signed and affirmed Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief Affidavit and the education certificate for your records.
4. Return the **original** signed and affirmed Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief Affidavit to the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit at 177 King St. E., Suite 2, Chatham ON.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit at 519.355.1071 ext. 5900.