

West Virginia Medical Exemption

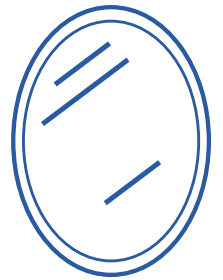
February 23, 2023



WV has an exemplary immunization model with **no outbreaks** of measles recorded.



In 2022, a total of 65 immunization exemption requests were submitted to the Bureau for Public Health (BPH).



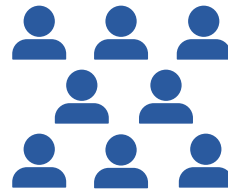
Four states (CT, ME, NY, WA) have changed their immunization exemption laws to mirror WV.



In the past 5 years, only 44 exemption requests submitted were denied for not meeting the national standards for valid contraindications or precautions to vaccinations.



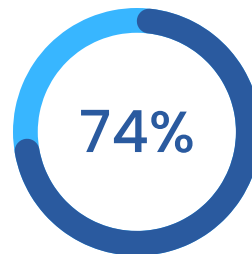
In 2019, when 31 states experienced measles outbreaks, WV had **none**.



In 2022, 8 physicians accounted for 48% of immunization exemption requests received.



Parents can feel assured that their kids are able to attend school in a protected environment.



In the past 5 years, 74% of exemption requests filed with BPH were granted a permanent or temporary exemption.



On average, it takes 18 days for the immunization exemption process to be completed.

West Virginia Medical Exemption Summary

- School-based compulsory vaccination laws have been a cornerstone of disease control efforts in the United States for more than 150 years.
- West Virginia has one of the nation’s most effective school immunization policies in the nation, resulting in some of the highest vaccination rates among school-aged children and the lowest rates of vaccine-preventable diseases in the nation.
- West Virginia, and all U.S. states, allows medical exemptions for children with a valid medical contraindication to immunization.
- West Virginia does not grant non-medical exemptions.
- Non-medical exemptions have been associated with increased occurrence of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks originating in and spreading through schools.
- A recent study found that children with non-medical exemptions were 6 times more likely to acquire pertussis and 22 times more likely to acquire measles than, compared to vaccinated children.
- States that have eliminated non-medical exemptions have seen an improvement in vaccination rates with a corresponding decline in vaccine reportable disease incidence.
- Many states align their vaccine requirements with recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

WEST VIRGINIA IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTION REQUESTS FILED, 2018-2022, N=168

