



## **MONTGOMERY MONTESSORI SCHOOL, Inc.**

136 Clinton Street. Montgomery, NY 12549

Tel: (845) 401-9232

TO: Parents of Montgomery Montessori School Children

FROM: Parinaz Mokhtari / Head of School

RE: Request for Exemption from Immunization Requirements

Accordance with the New York State Public Health Law, all students attending Private Schools must be immunized against the following diseases: diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, Pneumococcal infection, Hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib).

Studies have shown that a student who has not been vaccinated is more likely to contract a vaccine preventable disease. Since no vaccine is 100% effective, some children who have been vaccinated may also be infected through contact with a child who has not been immunized. Schools with students who have not been immunized are much more likely to suffer an outbreak of one of these illnesses.

In the event that a case of a vaccine preventable disease occurs in your child's school and your child has not obtained the required immunization, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has the right to require that your child be excluded from school for at least one incubation period after the onset of the last case. For example, if a case of measles is diagnosed, students who have not received a measles vaccine will be excluded from school during the outbreak and for an additional 18 days after the onset of the last case in the school.

**Section 2164 of the Public Health Law permits the following two exemptions to this mandatory immunization requirement:**

(1) If the parent objects to the immunization because the parent holds genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the requirement that the child be immunized; or

(2) A signed, completed sample medical exemption form issued by the NYSDOH or NYCDOHMH or a signed statement from a physician licensed to practice medicine in New York State certifying that immunization may be detrimental to the child's health, containing sufficient information to identify a medical contraindication to a



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specific immunization and specifying the length of time the immunization is medically contraindicated. The medical exemption must be reissued annually. The principal or person in charge of the school may require additional information supporting the exemption.

### **Religious Exemptions**

If you are seeking a religious exemption for your child, you must provide a written explanation of the foundations for your religious belief opposing immunization. In your own words, describe the religious principles that guide your objection to immunization. Also, indicate whether you are opposed to all immunizations, and if not, the religious basis that prohibits particular immunizations.

**A letter from you, a lawyer, a member of the clergy or other individual simply indicating that you have such a religious belief, without any further explanation, is inadequate to support the granting of an exemption. Please make sure there is a reason of explanation attached. This document also HAS TO BE NOTORIZE and APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL.**

If the information you submitted in support of the exemption request is not sufficient for the DOE to make a determination, you may be asked to provide additional documentation within ten school days of receipt of letter. Please note that the Public Health Law *does not* authorize the granting of exemptions based upon **personal, moral, secular, scientific or philosophical beliefs**. Documentation in support of a religious exemption should be submitted to your school Nurse or school Director. That person will forward your letter and any supporting documentation to the Office of School Health. Your request will then be reviewed and you will be notified of its approval or denial.



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### **PHL Section 2164 requires schools to exclude students who are not in compliance with PHL.**

Students who are not in compliance are those from whom MMS have not received

1. A valid immunization record,
2. other acceptable proof of immunity (diagnosis of disease or serological evidence of immunity to the diseases specified in the NYCRR 66-1),
3. A valid religious or medical exemption,
4. Or students who are not considered “in process” of receiving their immunizations

### **Students in “process” of receiving immunization**

Students in “process” of receiving immunization only have 10 days to submit an appointment card from their Physician stating the dates and types of the upcoming immunizations . If the school does not receive such documentation, the student will be excluded from school until such documentation is submitted to the Director of the school (Ms. Parinaz Mokhtari)

### **Immunization/Physical record keeping and record retention**

School Director and the District (VC) Nurse will maintain hard copies of all student immunization records for 6 years, or 3 years after the individual attains age 18, whichever is longer.

### **School personnel responsible to carrying out immunization policy**

Personnel responsible for carrying out immunization policy are the School Director and the School District Nurse.

Sincerely,  
Parinaz Mokhtari  
Director



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