

Trine University Student Health Center

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM VACCINATION REQUIREMENT

Student's name: _____ Trine ID# _____ Date of Birth: _____

Students requesting an exemption from Trine University's immunization requirements are required to read and sign this Request for Exemption form. Trine University recognizes only medical and religious exemptions and wants students to understand the risks associated with a decision to seek and exemption.

Risks of Non-Immunization: Immunization is a safe and effective way to protect you against vaccine-preventable diseases that can hurt, cripple, or even kill. The following contagious diseases can spread rapidly among non-immunized individuals in a group situation, such as a college campus.

1. **Hepatitis B** is a serious infection that infects the liver. It can cause acute illnesses, such as loss of appetite or fatigue, or chronic illnesses, such as liver damage. The Hepatitis B virus is easily spread through contact with the blood, other body fluids, or through contact with a contaminated object, where the virus can live for up to seven days.
2. **Meningococcal** is a serious bacterial illness and is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2 -18 years of age in the US. Meningitis is an infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. Meningococcal disease can also cause blood infections. Each year in the US, 1,000-2,000 people are infected with meningococcal disease.
3. **Measles, Mumps, Rubella** are serious diseases. **Measles** is a serious viral disease characterized by rash and moderate to high fever. It can lead to pneumonia, serious ear infections, deafness, convulsions, inflammation of the brain and even death. The severe complications develop in 1 out of every 1,000 cases; 1 in 10 of such complicated cases will result in death. **Mumps** is a viral disease that can lead to deafness, meningitis, painful swelling of the testicles or ovaries, and rarely sterility. **Rubella** (German Measles) is an infectious viral disease characterized by mild fever and rash. The major risk is to non-immune women who catch the disease early in pregnancy.
4. **Polio** is a viral disease and, although it usually does not cause serious illness, can sometimes result in paralysis or meningitis.
5. **Varicella** (Chicken Pox), is an infectious viral disease characterized by high fever and rash. Complications can include pneumonia and brain infections. Nearly 1 in 50 cases can result in severe complications, especially adults.
6. **Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis** can be very serious diseases. **Tetanus** causes painful muscle spasms and stiffness. This can lead to tightening of the muscles in the head and neck, causing difficulty swallowing or even breathing. **Diphtheria** can cause a thick membrane to cover the back of the throat, leading to breathing problems, paralysis, and heart failure. **Pertussis** causes severe whooping cough spells, which can lead to difficulty breathing, vomiting, and disturbed sleep.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understand the above risks of non-immunization and have had the opportunity to discuss this with a medical provider, or have declined to do so, and request exemption from Trine University's immunization requirements for the following reason(s):

_____ Medical contraindication _____ Religious reasons _____ Personal reasons

Students over the age of 18 are responsible adults and this form must be signed by the student.

*If you are claiming exemption for medical reasons or for pregnancy/suspected pregnancy, you must provide the Student Health Center with a written statement, signed by a physician, before the exemption will be considered. Statements should indicate the nature and duration of the medical condition which contraindicates an immunization and the specific vaccines(s) identified as detrimental to the student's health, or should certify pregnancy/suspected pregnancy.

*If you are claiming religious exemption, you must provide an official letter from a religious leader/place of worship.

*If you are claiming an exemption for personal reasons, a letter of explanation must accompany this form and be approved by the Dean of Students.

Liability Release

In consideration for exemption, I hereby waive any and all claims against Trine University and its faculty, staff, employees and/or agents which may arise as a result of my failure to be immunized, and agree to hold harmless Trine University from any claims or causes of action brought against it or its faculty, staff, employees or agents as a result of my failure to be immunized. I further understand that in the event that an outbreak occurs on campus related to 1 or more of the immunizations I have not completed, I may be temporarily excluded from classes, residence halls and all campus activities.

Student signature (parent if under 18): _____ Date: _____