



# Platte County Health Department

## Serving Platte County Missouri

### Exemption Policy Change



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We are adapting new changes to our exemption policy. As such, we are not currently offering exemptions in our offices. We understand that this may be inconvenient for some of you and do apologize for this, however...

**We firmly believe** in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

**We firmly believe** in the safety of our vaccines.

**We firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.**

**We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. We firmly believe that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.**

**We firmly believe** that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as healthcare providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and the vaccine schedule are the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. **Please be advised, however, that delaying or “breaking up the vaccines” to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations, and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers at Platte County Health Department.**

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating your child on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do to protect all children and young adults. You may still request an exemption from the Bureau of Immunizations by visiting the links below.

[Parent/Guardian Exemption \(For Daycares & Preschools\)](#)

[Religious Exemption \(For School-Aged Children\)](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this policy. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us. Thank you for allowing the Platte County Health Department to be a partner in your child's health.

Sincerely,

*Platte County Health Department*