Standardized Education for Parents Requesting an Immunization Exemption for School Entry in Utah: A Mentored Experience

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Herd Immunity

- 95% of a population must be immunized to have “herd immunity”
- In Utah, only 75.2% of children have all the recommended vaccinations
Decreasing Immunization Rates

- Each year more of Utah’s citizens choose not to immunize their children.
- The percentage of Utah exemptions has increased from 1.2% in 1997, to 4.5% in 2013.
Utah Exemption Types

95%
4%
1%

- Personal
- Medical
- Religious
What do we do about it?

- Education!
  - The implementation of an education module will include:
    - Teaching about why immunizations are so important for school-age children
    - Education about the vaccine-preventable diseases
    - Information regarding unimmunized children during an outbreak
    - Requirements for quarantine based on Utah state law
Our Goal

- Promote the administration of immunizations
- Educate parents about the importance of vaccinations
- Increase the herd immunity in Utah
The Process

- Collect the information
- Create the module outline
- Collaborate with The Summit Group
- Gather feedback
VACCINATION EDUCATION
This is an educational tool for anyone who chooses not to give their child vaccinations.

During the next 15 minutes, you’ll learn:
- Why vaccines are important
- How community immunity works
- The symptoms of diseases that are preventable with vaccinations
- Your responsibilities if you choose not to vaccinate your child
How contagious is measles?

- a. Not very—it is only spread by blood contact, so you don’t have to worry about it
- b. Somewhat—there is a slight chance you’ll contract it if you live with someone who has measles
- c. Very contagious—90% of unvaccinated people close to an infected person will contract the disease
What are Vaccines?

Vaccines are substances that teach your immune system what an invasive microbe looks like. This allows your body to protect itself from specific diseases. It is a natural process that uses your body’s own natural defense system to keep you safe from serious illnesses.

This process is more natural than medicines, treatments, or vitamin supplements. It makes use of your body’s strengths and protects you from diseases that could do serious harm.
Community Immunity

What is Community Immunity?
When the vast majority of a population is vaccinated, it protects the people who cannot be vaccinated. This includes:

- Babies
- Seniors
- Those with certain medical conditions

Because of the low vaccination rate, protective levels of community immunity in Utah are declining and thus risks are increasing. This means children who are not vaccinated have a high risk of contracting and spreading disease during an outbreak.
Intro to Measles

Measles is a disease that causes fever and red spots on the skin.

This disease spreads to others through coughing and sneezing. Infected people can spread measles to others from four days before to four days after the rash first appears. It is so contagious that if someone has it, 90% of the unvaccinated people close to that person will also become infected.
Intro to Pertussis *(Whooping Cough)*

Pertussis is a respiratory tract infection that develops in stages. The early stage usually starts with cold-like symptoms, including:

- Runny nose
- Low fever
- Occasional cough
- Apnea (a pause in breathing)

In many people, pertussis is recognized by a severe hacking cough followed by a high-pitched intake of breath that sounds like a “whoop.”

Initially, pertussis looks like the common cold, so it is often untreated until it is in the late stage. During this stage, coughing becomes severe and can last for more than 10 weeks, which is why it is also known as the “100 day cough.”
Parental Responsibilities

Your Responsibilities
If you choose not to have your child vaccinated, you will have to take extra precautions in the event of a disease outbreak in your area.

During an outbreak, your child:
- May not go to school
- Should not leave home for any reason
- Should not have contact with others
- Will be expected to complete missed schoolwork

You must take these precautions in order to protect your child and to keep an outbreak from growing. This is especially important when a community does not benefit from community immunity.

Want a reminder about how community immunity works?

Up Next: How long your child will need to stay home
How Can I Get Vaccinated?

Vaccinations Are Simple

- You can vaccinate your child at your local health department.
- You can find your local health department and vaccination clinic at [www.immunize-utah.org](http://www.immunize-utah.org)
- Most pediatric clinics will vaccinate your child without a doctor’s appointment.
- If you are concerned about the cost of the vaccinations, the health department can work with you to find a solution.

[LOCATE AN IMMUNIZATION CLINIC](http://www.immunize-utah.org)
Obtaining the Exemption

Congratulations!
You have completed the Vaccination Education presentation.
Please double check your information to make sure it’s correct.

Parent's Full Name: Test T. Testerson
Email Address: test@test.com

Student #1's Full Name: Test Testerson Jr.
Student's School: Test Elementary School
Date of Birth: 11/11/2011
Legal Guardian: Yes

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Implementation!

- House Bill 308 Sub 2
- Finalize the module
- Teaching schools how it works
- IMPLEMENT THE MODULE IN UTAH!