

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor
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Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Alan Phillips
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Thank you for your comments regarding the CIP meeting minutes. We appreciate this opportunity to address some of your concerns.

The draft exemption form you refer to has not been proposed to the Colorado Board of Health (BOH). The changes were being discussed by a work group convened to review immunization issues related to the BOH rules. The draft form was developed as a tool to illustrate potential changes in the process to get stakeholder input. The workgroup saw value in getting input from various stakeholders regarding the potential changes over an extended period (approximately 12 months) before any potential proposals would be made to the Board of Health for their consideration. This would include input from parents, physicians, schools and public health workers. In an effort to keep the activities of the BOH work group transparent to the general public, the minutes of the group's preliminary discussions were posted on our website where you found them. After some initial discussion there is no intent to move forward with this draft form for stakeholder review and it will not be submitted for the BOH to consider.

Colorado statutes and the Colorado BOH rules protect the rights of parents to claim and sign personal and religious exemptions. Currently, only a medical exemption requires a signature by a medical professional. Any modification would require legislative change which could only be implemented with intensive input and involvement from all concerned. We are committed to providing information and support to child care facilities and schools regarding Colorado required school immunizations and compliancy. The Colorado Immunization Program is also a resource for educating parents about the role of immunizations in keeping their children and their communities free from vaccine preventable disease and informing them of the risks to their children and their communities when not vaccinating their children. We will continue to keep any processes as transparent as possible and to post meeting minutes on our website to keep our public informed.

Thank you for taking the time and effort to share your viewpoint with us.

Sincerely,
Joni Reynolds, RN, MSN, CNS
Director Public Health Programs
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