

January 1, 2020

Dear Student:

Illinois law states that students who enroll in any college or university in Illinois must present to their school proof of immunization for **tetanus/diphtheria, measles, rubella, mumps, and meningococcal**.

The law contains a provision for accommodation on religious grounds. **The law requires Principia to collect either proof of immunization for every student or a written and signed statement by the student (or the student's parent or guardian, if the student is a minor) detailing the student's objection on religious grounds. The objection must set forth the specific religious belief that conflicts with the immunization. By law, students without such records on file by Week 8 of their first term are not allowed to enroll for the next term.**

Before opting for the religious accommodation, it is important to consider the significant commitment to prayerful protective work for yourself and your community that this step entails. For those who have been immunized in the past—or decide now to obtain immunization— it is important to mail or FAX (618-374-4000) your proof of immunization to us as soon as possible. This is necessary even if you were immunized in the past, but are now submitting a Religious Exemption Request.

Principia has been grateful for the respect and freedom it has received from health authorities to enable students to rely solely upon Christian Science treatment to meet their health needs. It is essential that Principia, its students, and their parents be obedient to the law and follow legal procedures designed for the protection of the student, the community, and the institution. Please give this matter your careful consideration. As Mary Baker Eddy states in *Retrospection and Introspection*, “Genuine Christian Scientists are, or should be, the most systematic and law-abiding people on earth ....”

In a case of suspected communicable illness, students will be required to go to Cox Cottage (Principia's on-campus care facility), which is staffed by Christian Science nurses. (There is no charge.) In cases of communicable diseases that, by law, need to be reported to the local health authorities, Principia would report directly to the Jersey County Health Department and would comply with any relevant Department guidelines.

As a rule, these guidelines would only affect the individual student. In the case of certain illnesses—measles, for example—such guidelines would affect the entire Principia community. In such cases, it might be necessary to isolate a student exposed to the illness. Only exposed individuals whose proof of immunization is deemed adequate by the County authorities would be exempt from isolation. The isolation period would continue until the Jersey County authorities determined that there was no further danger to the community, which could be a period of up to several weeks. The readiness of a student to return to classes must be determined by Principia, consonant with the guidelines of the Jersey County authorities.

In recent years, we have been reminded that the freedom to practice Christian Science needs to be protected. Principia is grateful for your continued alertness to the importance of consistent prayer in maintaining health.

Please complete and fax the attached form and/or send your immunization records to our office. You can email this document to our assistant, [carly.hendrickson@principia.edu](mailto:carly.hendrickson@principia.edu) or fax it to 618-374-4000.

Sincerely,

Brett Grimmer  
Interim Director of Admissions

# Immunization Exemption Statement

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Last Name, First Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Enrolling Term (Fall/Spring 2020)

I hereby respectfully request exception from presenting proof of immunization required by state law for admission to any college or university in Illinois. As a Christian Scientist, I object to immunizations on religious grounds as immunizations conflict with my religious convictions. This request for exception from proof of immunization is made in conformance with 110ILCS 20/3(c) of the Illinois Compiled Statutes which says: "No proof of immunization shall be required if the person or his or her parent or guardian presents a signed statement that he or she objects to immunization on religious grounds."

## Further, Section 694.210 Religious Exemption provides:

A student may be exempted from the immunization requirements specified in this Part upon acceptance by the designated recordkeeping office of a written and signed statement by the student (or the student's parent or guardian, if the student is a minor) detailing the student's objection to immunization on religious grounds. **The objection must set forth the specific religious belief that conflicts with the immunization.** The religious objection may be personal and need not be directed by the tenets of an established religious organization. General philosophical or moral reluctance to allow immunizations will not provide a sufficient basis for an exception to statutory requirements.

**To receive an exemption to vaccination/examination, a student, parent or legal guardian must provide a statement detailing the religious beliefs that prevent the student from receiving each required school vaccination/examination being requested.**

**In the space provided below, state each vaccination exemption (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Tetanus, and Meningococcal) requested and state the religious grounds for your request. If additional space is needed, attach additional page(s). This is meant to be a personal statement in your own words for the reasons you are requesting to have exemption for the state requirement.**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Any student now choosing to claim the Religious Exemption pursuant to Illinois law, but who has been immunized in the past, should attach a copy of those immunization records for reference in case of a campus health emergency.

## Parent or Guardian's Confirmation

**(To be completed only if student is under the age of 18)**

As the parent/guardian of the student named above, I hereby request for exemption from providing proof of immunization. Such requirements conflict with our religious convictions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Please return to:

Principia College Admissions Office  
1 Maybeck Place, Elsah, IL 62028  
Fax: 618.374.4000

**Questions?** Call Carly Hendrickson, Admissions Assistant, at 618.374.5181 or email [carly.hendrickson@principia.edu](mailto:carly.hendrickson@principia.edu)