Record of Vaccine Declination

I am the parent/guardian of the child named at the bottom of this form. My healthcare provider has recommended that my child be vaccinated against the diseases indicated below. I have been given a copy of the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) that explains the benefits and risks of receiving each of the vaccines recommended for my child. I have carefully reviewed and considered all of the information given to me. However, at this time I choose to refuse the vaccine(s) for my child that are shown in the table below. I have read and acknowledge the following:

- I understand that vaccine-preventable diseases can infect unvaccinated U.S. children and can result in hospitalization and even death.
- I understand that vaccine-preventable infections that are no longer common in the U.S. still occur around the world. An unvaccinated child can be infected while traveling, or through direct or indirect contact with a traveler.
- I understand that my unvaccinated child could spread disease to another child who is too young to be vaccinated or to a person whose medical condition, such as cancer, or immune system problems, prevents them from being vaccinated. This could result in health complications and even death for the other person.
- I understand that if too many parents exempted their child from vaccination, these diseases would return to our community in full force.
- I understand that my unvaccinated child may not be protected by "herd" or "community" immunity (i.e., protection that is the result of having most people in a population vaccinated against a disease).
- I understand that some vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and pertussis are extremely infectious and have been known to infect unvaccinated people living in highly vaccinated populations.
- I understand that if my child is not vaccinated and gets infected, my child could develop serious complications. These may include pneumonia, hospitalization, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, deafness, and death.
- I understand that my child may be excluded from his or her child care facility, school, sports events, or other organized activities during disease outbreaks. This means my child and I could miss many days of school and/or work.
- I understand that the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all recommend preventing diseases through vaccination.

Vaccine / Disease	**VIS given** (✔)	**Vaccine recommended by doctor or nurse** (Dr./Nurse initials)	**I decline this vaccination for my child** (Initials of parent/guardian)
COVID-19			
Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP)			
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)			
Hepatitis A (HepA)			
Hepatitis B (HepB)			
Human papillomavirus (HPV)			
Influenza			
Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)			
Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)			
Meningococcal B (MenB)			
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)			
Polio, inactivated (IPV)			
RSV preventive antibody (RSV-mAb)			
Rotavirus (RV)			
Tetanus-diphtheria (Td)			
Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap)			
Varicella (Var)			

After discussion with my provider who recommends these vaccines, I acknowledge that I am declining to have my child vaccinated against one or more diseases listed above. I have placed my initials in the table above to indicate the vaccine(s) I am declining. I understand that I can change my decision in the future and have my child vaccinated.

CHILD'S NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

DOCTOR/NURSE SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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Additional Information for Healthcare Professionals about Immunize.org's "Record of Vaccine Declination"

Unfortunately, some parents will refuse to have their child receive some vaccines. For healthcare providers who want to assure that these parents fully understand the consequences, Immunize.org has produced a form titled "Record of Vaccine Declination." This form facilitates and documents the discussion that a healthcare professional can have with parents about the risks of not having their child vaccinated before the child leaves the medical setting.

Your use of the "Record of Vaccine Declination" demonstrates the importance you place on timely and complete vaccination, focuses the parents' attention on the unnecessary risk for which they are accepting responsibility, and may encourage a vaccine-hesitant parent to accept your recommendations.

Your recommendation can make a difference. Vaccine recommendations from the child's healthcare provider can strongly influence a parent's final vaccination decision.[1] Most parents trust their children's doctor for vaccine-safety information (76% endorsed "a lot of trust"), according to researchers from the University of Michigan.[2] Similarly, analyses of the 2009 HealthStyles Survey found that the vast majority of parents (81.7%) name their child's doctor or nurse as the most important source that helped them make decisions about vaccinating their child.[3] Gust and colleagues found that the advice of their children's healthcare provider was the main factor in changing the minds of parents who had been reluctant to vaccinate their children or who had delayed their children's vaccinations.[4] Guidance on how to conduct a discussion with parents about their child's need for vaccinations is available from the American Academy of Family Physicians[5] and also CDC (see www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html#understand).

The consequences of not vaccinating are well documented. The following are just a few examples of the impact of vaccine refusal:

- ***Association between vaccine refusal and vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States: A review of measles and pertussis.*** Phadke VK, Bednaraczyk RA, Salmon DA, Omer SB. JAMA 2016; 315(11): 1149–58. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26978210/
- ***An outbreak of measles in an undervaccinated community.*** Gahr P, DeVries AS, Wallace G, et al. Pediatrics. July 2014; 134(1):2220–8. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24913790/
- ***Nonmedical vaccine exemptions and pertussis California.*** Atwell JE, Van Otterloow J, Sipprich J, et al. Pediatrics 2013; 132(4):624–30. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24082000/

To ensure that your parents and patients are fully informed about vaccination risks and benefits, follow these steps:

- Give the appropriate Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) to the parent or legal representative before each vaccine is given. This is required by federal law.
- When parents refuse a recommended vaccine, document that you provided the VIS(s), and have the parent sign the "Record of Vaccine Declination."
- Revisit the vaccination discussion at each subsequent visit. Flag the charts of fully or partially unvaccinated children as a reminder to revisit the vaccination discussion. Flagging also alerts the team about missed vaccinations when evaluating an ill child, especially one who has a fever without a clear source.

What do others say about documentation of vaccine declination?

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): "Despite [our] best efforts to discuss the effectiveness of immunizations and the low risk of significant side effects from immunization, some families will still refuse to have their children immunized. In those cases, it is important to document the refusal of one or more recommended immunizations and attempts to counsel the family in the patient's medical record… To support this, the AAP has updated a *Refusal of Recommended Immunization* form."[6] AAP also has published information and resources that describe how to code for and document discussions.[7]

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO): NACCHO encourages various steps be taken to limit non-medical exemptions to school immunization requirements. "For individuals requesting [non-medical] exemptions, (1) require documentation from a medical provider regarding the refusal to vaccinate and consultation pertaining to risks; (2) require consultation and signature by the local health department for non-medical exemptions; or (3) implement mandatory education sessions and require acknowledgement of risk or notarized documentation of non-medical exemptions for parents, guardians, or student 18 years and older about the importance of immunization and the impact of refusing immunizations."[8]

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6. AAP. Refusal of Recommended Immunizations, accessed on July 1, 2024 at https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/RTI_Form.pdf
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