

As of January 5, 2021, 629 bills have been pre-filed in the Missouri legislature. We all know that many of these bills will go nowhere, but we must stay abreast of bills that can affect the health and well being of our children, both directly and indirectly. To look up your Missouri legislators go to: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default.aspx>

Bills to follow so far are:

### **HB35 Modifies provisions relating to required immunizations**

The bill prohibits any public school, public institution of higher education, or public daycare center from adopting a policy that would: (1) require immunizations that are not required under state law or rule; or (2) require a student who is exempted from receiving immunizations to receive an immunization. The bill also prohibits a municipality or county from requiring a school, public institution of higher education, or daycare to adopt these policies.

### **HB37 Modifies provisions relating to immunizations**

This bill makes changes to existing statute regarding immunization requirements. Under current law, immunization requirements apply to children attending private, parochial, or parish schools. **This bill removes such schools from immunization requirements, and instead applies immunization requirements to just public schools.** The bill **prohibits the Department of Health and Senior Services from promulgating rules regarding immunization requirements** for any immunization not specifically listed in the bill. The bill clarifies that a student at a public elementary or secondary education school, a public institution of higher education, or a daycare can attend school by submitting a written religious **or conscientious belief** statement or submitting a religious or conscientious belief exemption form developed by the Department; the school or daycare cannot require any additional conditions before accepting the exemption. The bill requires the Department to create an informational brochure that outlines the process for obtaining an exemption to immunization requirements. The Department must also develop a standard religious or conscientious belief exemption form. The brochure and form must be available on the Department's website. Under current law, students of public institutions of higher education residing in on-campus housing are required to get a **meningococcal vaccine. This bill changes that requirement** to require the vaccine only for students living in publicly-owned property. Under current law, immunization requirements apply to a child attending private or parochial daycare centers, preschool, or nursery schools caring for 10 or more children. **This bill removes such schools from immunization requirements, and instead applies the requirements just to public daycare centers, preschools, or nursery schools (regardless of the number of children).**