



FACT: Any law passed to weaken our state's immunization standard will unnecessarily jeopardize public health. The evidence is clear - these types of exemptions result in more occurrences of preventable diseases (consider the spring 2015 Measles outbreak at Disneyland).

FACT: Every dollar used for immunizations saves \$5 in direct medical costs and \$11 in total expenses.

FACT: Mississippi does allow for medical exemptions to immunizations. The Department of Health currently accepts **all** medical exemptions submitted by a Mississippi licensed primary care physician (pediatrician, family medicine or internal medicine), regardless of medical reason.

FACT: A parent *does* have a right to choose whether they want to protect their child through vaccination or not and no child is forced to get vaccines. However, once a child is enrolled in school, it becomes a **public health** issue and the rights of *other* children must also be protected.

FACT: Families do have other recourse if they are fearful or uncertain about immunizations: many pediatricians will work with families to delay or space out vaccine administrations for their children; options for special circumstances and individual children.

FACT: Mississippi serves as a model for other states. After the 2015 Disneyland Measles outbreak, California followed our lead and removed philosophical exemptions to immunizations. Vermont did likewise.

FACT: Currently only 5 vaccines (with a maximum total of 16 injections) are required for school entry (including MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), DTap (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis ["whooping cough"]), Varicella ("chicken pox"), Polio, and Hepatitis B.

FACT: Contrary to recent propaganda, physicians do not receive kickbacks or incentives for every immunization administered. Physicians only receive reimbursement for the vaccines based on the official compensation fees established by Vaccines for Children program, Medicaid program, or private insurance providers.

For more information, visit www.givemeashot.org.