

IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunization Policy

Every student enrolled in a Catholic School in the State of Texas shall be immunized against vaccine preventable diseases caused by infectious agents in accordance with the immunization schedule adopted by the Texas Department of State Health Services. A student who fails to present the required evidence shall not be accepted for enrollment. The **only exception** to the foregoing requirement is a medical exemption signed by a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) authorized to practice in the State of Texas, including the physician's license number.

Immunizations are not in conflict with the Catholic faith. Conscientious objections or waivers, which may be permissible for attendance in public schools, do not qualify as an exemption in Catholic Schools in Texas. (Atty. Gen. Op. GA-0420)

This policy was adopted by Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department, December 2008 and voted on April 3, 2017 to keep as written with no changes by the Bishops of Texas.

Texas Administrative Code, Rule 97.62

The statement must state that, in the physician's opinion, the vaccine required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the child or student or any member of the child's or students' household. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.

Annual Report of Immunization Status (due early December each school year) at:

<http://chrstx.dshs.state.tx.us/CHRS/login.aspx>

Current immunization requirements can be found at:

www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/default.shtm OR <http://www.immunizetexas.com>

For current immunization information and minimum requirements, changes and explanations after this manual was printed, contact the Immunization Division, Texas Department of State Health Services.

Phone: 512-776-7544 OR 1-800-252-9152

Regional Texas Department of State Health Services: The Texas Department of State Health Services maintains regional offices for the 11 Public Health Regions. Regional offices can assist with minimum immunization requirement information and literature and in some cases may provide immunization clinics in your school. To determine your region:

Online: www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/

Phone: 512-776-7770

Provisional enrollment

All immunizations should be completed by the first date of attendance. The law requires that students be fully vaccinated against the specified diseases. A student may be enrolled provisionally if the student has an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each specified age/grade-appropriate vaccine required by this rule. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as is medically feasible and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the school.

A school nurse or school administrator shall review the immunization status of a provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccination. If, at the end of the 30-day period, a student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in compliance and the school shall exclude the student from school attendance until the required dose is administered and proof of immunization has been provided to the school.