

# HEALTH

## 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)

## 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.

## Sickness

The school clinic is available for minor, non-contagious issues. Students with more serious symptoms need to stay home and/or seek medical attention. For the protection of all students, the following guidelines have been set up. A child having one or more of the following symptoms will be sent home:

<b>EXCLUSION GUIDELINES</b>	<b>RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDELINES</b>
Oral temperature of 100 degrees or above	Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine (i.e. Tylenol, Motrin)
Vomiting, nausea or severe abdominal pain	Symptom free for 24 hours
Marked drowsiness or malaise	Symptom free
Sore throat, acute cold or persistent cough	Symptom free
Red, inflamed or discharging eyes	Symptom free - If bacterial infection – after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and symptoms subside.
Acute skin rashes or eruptions	Written physician release
Swollen glands around jaws, ears and neck	Written physician release
Suspected scabies or impetigo	After treatment has begun
Any skin lesion in the weeping stage	Symptom free
Diarrhea; runny, watery or bloody stool	Symptom free
Pediculosis (head lice)	After one treatment of medicated shampoo and in returning to school, child will be checked by clinic personnel. Child must be nit free. Child will be re-checked again by clinic personnel in seven to 10 days.
Other symptoms suggestive of acute illness	Written physician release

For conditions other than emergencies, the student will be attended to in the clinic and allowed to return to the classroom.

All families will fill out an Emergency Information Form at the start of each school year. All phone numbers and emergency contacts **must** be kept up to date. Whether a child is not feeling well or a serious accident occurs, parents or authorized persons should be able to be reached at all times. Please inform the School Office of any changes in this information throughout the school year.

## **Communicable Disease Control Measure**

If your child has any type of infectious disease or rash, please notify the school clinic immediately. After such disease, parents should take the child to the school clinic before re-entering the classroom. Students will need a permit from their physician for re-admission to school. (Examples: measles, mumps, chicken pox, pink eye, lice, impetigo, scabies, ringworm, hepatitis, mononucleosis, etc.)

## **Medications in School**

School personnel designated by the principal (a nurse or a non-licensed person) will give medication necessary to allow a child to stay in school. The following are required for the administration of medication in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Catholic schools.

Only necessary medication (prescribed for, but not limited to, the treatment of ADD/ADHD, asthma, diabetes and epilepsy) may be given at school. All medication should be given outside of school hours, if possible. Three-times-a-day medications should be given before school, after school and at bedtime for optimal coverage. Should school personnel refuse to give medication, the parent/guardian is informed and the incident documented. If necessary, medication can be given at school only under the following conditions:

1. If medication is needed in order for a student to remain in school, the [Medication Permission Form](#) must be completed by the parent/guardian, signed by the physician and returned with the medication to the nurse or principal designee.
2. All necessary medication prescribed for a student must be signed by a physician, dentist, physician assistant, podiatrist, or nurse practitioner and parent/guardian. All prescription medication must be in the prescription bottle and labeled with a current pharmacy prescription label. Over-the-counter medication must be in its original labeled container and have the student's name on the bottle. Medications sent in baggies or unlabeled containers will not be given. Over-the-counter includes cough drops, ointments and eye drops and may not be given without a physician and parent/guardian signature.
3. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to bring all medication to the clinic/office and to pick up unused medicine. Any medicine unused that is not picked up will be destroyed.
4. Experimental medication/dosages will not be given. Herbal medication, dietary supplements and other nutritional aids not approved as medication by the FDA will not be administered at school.

5. Only antibiotics prescribed to be taken four times a day with 12 noon as one of those times will be dispensed.
6. Medications must be kept in a locked cabinet/drawer in the School Office/clinic and administered in the School Office/clinic unless other considerations are made. drug
7. A student may need medication at a school-related event. The principal is to authorize a school employee to administer medication. The medication must be in the original container, a photocopy of the parental permit and the time(s) the medication is to be given.
8. Only the **school nurse** can give nebulizer treatments in school. Non-licensed school personnel are not permitted to administer this treatment. The parent must come to school to give the treatment if there is no nurse.
9. Sedatives, experimental drugs or dosages, herbal, dietary supplements, or other medication not approved by the FDA or narcotic analgesics will not be given.
10. In addition to the general [Medication Permissions Form](#), special forms must be filled out for the following:
  - [Life Threatening Allergies \(1/2\)](#)
  - [Life Threatening Allergies \(2/2\)](#)
  - [Asthma Medication](#)
  - [Epilepsy](#)

**Note:** At the end of the school year, all medication must be picked up from the clinic or it will be destroyed.

## **Annual Student Screenings**

Student screening for vision and hearing problems are state regulation pursuant to the Special Senses Communications and Disorders Act of 1983. Student screening for spinal curvature is state regulation according to TAC, Section 37.141-37.152.

### **Vision and Hearing**

- First-time entrants
- Grades Pre-K, K, 1, 3, 5, 7
- Entrants from another state

### **Spinal**

- All students in grade 6

## **Child Abuse and Neglect**

Provisions of the Texas Family Code require reporting of all suspected child abuse or neglect under penalty of fine or jail sentence or both, for failure to timely report.