



Vaccination Policy for the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Springfield – Cape Girardeau

1. Required Pastoral Consultation

In each school of the diocese, the pastor (or the principal, in the case of a high school) shall:

- A. Review the statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities entitled, “Conscience Exemption for Vaccines based on Fetal Tissue from Abortions.”
- B. Consult with local public health authorities, teachers, and parents.

2. Policy Determination

After conducting the above consultations, the pastor or high school principal shall determine to include or exclude the section in brackets below from their school’s policy.

3. Notice of Policy

The pastor and principal shall inform parents of the vaccination policy the school will follow and the date on which it will come into force. The effective date should be selected so as to give parents, faculty, and staff sufficient notice of any change in requirements.

[SCHOOL NAME] Policy on Vaccinations

It is the general policy of [SCHOOL NAME] that all students must present documentation of up-to-date immunization status as required by the State of Missouri, including month, day, and year of each immunization, before attending school. A four day grace period from the first day of school, or at the time of enrollment, may be granted to students as needed.

We permit the following exceptions to our general policy:

1. Medical immunization exemption
2. Immunizations in progress (“in progress” means that a child has begun the vaccine series and has an appointment for the next dose. This appointment must be kept and an updated record provided to the school. If the appointment is not kept, the child is no longer in progress and is noncompliant.)

[3. Religious immunization exemption]

To qualify for the above exemptions, it is the parent’s responsibility to provide the school with the appropriate completed form or exemption card. Forms may be obtained by contacting a medical provider, local public health agency, or the State of Missouri’s Bureau of Immunizations. Students who are unimmunized, regardless of the reason, are subject to exclusion from school when outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases occur. The occasion or instance of an exclusion and the term of said will be determined at the discretion of the pastor or high school principal in consultation with public health authorities.