



A Message from the School Clinic

May 2017

IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTIONS



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Secretariat for Catholic Schools
Catholic Schools Office



To Whom It May Concern

The TCCBED (Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops and Education Department) policy regulating immunization requirements is applicable to all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and states the following:

“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.”

Statement from Rome regarding the use of immunization vaccines:

“Immunizations are not in conflict with the Catholic faith. When nothing else is available, as is the case currently in the U.S., Catholics may use these vaccines. The moral principle that applies in these cases is that of remote materials passive (not active) cooperation with evil.” These vaccines deter rampant outbreaks of viral disease in the population. Immunizations are not in conflict with the Catholic faith.

Statement from Texas Attorney General:

“Conscientious objections or waivers, which may be permissible for attendance in public schools, **do not qualify** as an exemption in Catholic Schools in Texas. A private school that does not accept state tax funds is not required to accept for enrollment a child who has received an exemption for the immunizations required by the Texas Health and Safety Code.” (Atty. Gen. OP GA-0420)

ATTN: ALL FAMILIES! **UPDATED SHOT RECORDS**

When you take your child in for his/her annual wellness visit, please request a duplicate copy of your child’s immunization record and drop it off at the school clinic for placement in his/her student file. Please follow up with your pediatrician to be sure your child’s immunizations are up-to-date.



INCOMING 7th GRADERS

Parents! It may be time for another dose of immunizations for your incoming 7th grader. Please contact your child’s pediatrician before returning to school in August and request an updated copy of his/her immunization records for the student clinic file. **Immunizations MUST BE up-to-date prior to returning to school on August 8, 2017.**

SPORTS PHYSICALS

ATTN: INCOMING 5TH, 6TH, 7TH & 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

If you plan to participate in school athletics during the 2017-2018 school year, you must have a current Parent Permission and Sports Physical form on file in the school clinic **BEFORE** try-outs begin for any sport (volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball).



Download a copy of the **Parent Permission and Sports Physical** form from the school website, under the **Health Information** tab.

NOTE:

If your pediatrician has a preferred “sports physical” form he/she uses, this is acceptable, so long as the form clearly indicates whether a child is “cleared” or “not-cleared” for participation.

***** IMPORTANT NOTICE *****

MEDICATIONS CURRENTLY **IN SCHOOL CLINIC**

Medication is not kept from year to year in the school clinic. If medication was provided THIS SCHOOL YEAR to be kept at school (i.e., inhalers, EpiPens, etc.), all medications must be picked up and signed out by the parent/guardian by the last day of school (May 26, 2017). **ALL medications not picked up will be DESTROYED.**

MEDICATIONS & MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION FORMS FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

If your child has a severe health problem, such as diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, severe allergies, a heart condition or other serious health conditions which require doctor's orders, a health care plan or special medication to be administered, a meeting with the child's teacher(s), clinic assistant, and principal must be scheduled before the child can begin school in the fall. Additionally,



- **The parent/guardian is responsible for bringing ALL medications to the school clinic. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Only medication prescribed by a licensed physician, dentist, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant will be administered by authorized school personnel.
- **ANY MEDICATION** (prescription or over-the-counter) used for chronic problems, such as headaches or insect bites, **MUST** have a physician or authorized prescriber signature **AND** parent signature on file before the medication can be administered at school.
- Short-term, over-the-counter medication, such as cough-drops and ointments, **MUST** have a parent or guardian signature on file, with amount to be given, time to be given and time needed between doses. Prescription medication **MUST** have a pharmacy label that matches orders.
- A child may carry medication, such as, an EMERGENCY ASTHMA INHALER or EPIPEN, provided there is a doctor's order on file and proper procedure is followed. If certain medications need to be in the child's classroom (or with a coach), a duplicate medication needs to be in the school clinic as a backup. Parents will need to provide both. No other medication may be carried on the child, including over-the-counter medication, at school or school-related events.
- NO STOCK MEDICATIONS will be kept in the clinic.
- Medication received in an unlabeled container or plastic bag will **NOT** be accepted.
- Substitution of medication from one student's supply for another (even if it is the same medication) is **NEVER** permitted.
- The student is responsible for going to the school clinic and asking for his/her medication. This includes both daily and PRN (as needed) medications.

Visit the school website (click the **Health Information** tab) to download the necessary forms for medication administration.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES



Please review the chart in the next column for details on various communicable diseases and the requirements set by the TCCBED. It also contains information on exclusion and return to school guidelines when students

are ill. Please help us keep your child(ren) and his/her classmates **HEALTHY** during the school year.

Guidelines for Excluding Students from School	
Exclusion Guidelines	Return to School Guidelines
Oral temperature of 100 degrees or above	Fever free for 24 hours
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	Written physician release
Wound, skin and soft tissue infections	Exclude until drainage is contained and covered with a clean dry bandage
Swollen glands around jaws, ears or neck	Written physician release
Suspected scabies or impetigo	Written physician release
Any skin lesion in the weeping stage	Covered and diagnosed as non-infectious
Earache	Symptom free
Pediculosis	Lice and nit free
Other symptoms suggestive of acute illness	Written physician release

SOURCE: TCCBED 2017

DONATIONS • CLINIC WISH LIST

- SHCS ties – donated by 8th grade class!
- tissues
- baggies (snack size for ice gel packs)
- powder free vinyl exam gloves (non-latex – LRG)
- bandages (various sizes)
- **NEW** (girls & boy's) underwear/socks (all sizes, i.e. PK3-K and older kid sizes)

All donations are VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

LOST & FOUND

Please have your child(ren) check for his/her lost items! All items will be donated at the end of May.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

SHCS summer office hours are **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** during the month of June. **The school office will be closed July 1-30, 2017.**

