

Immunization Policy

Exemptions from the Texas Department of State Health Minimum Vaccine Requirements will be allowed for medical contraindications and conscience exemptions. While we continue to support immunizations for young children, we know that there are exceptions to the rule. State licensing policies state that a child may be exempt from immunization requirements for a medical reason or reason of conscience including a religious belief. TWMS accepts the original state affidavit, signed by a parent and notarized. The signed affidavit is **valid for two years** from the date it was notarized.

To claim exclusion for medical reasons the parent or legal guardian is required to present a statement or letter, written and signed by the child's physician.* The letter must state, 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 any member of the child's immediate household. The statement/letter will be **valid for one year** from the date signed by the physician unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists.

Provisional admittance will be allowed for students whose vaccine series are not up to date. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as medically feasible and provide written documentation of evidence of vaccination to the school nurse. A school nurse shall review the immunization status of the provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of the vaccines. If at the end of this 30-day period a student has not received a subsequent dose of the vaccines, the student is not in compliance and the school will exclude the student from attendance until the required doses are administered.

Any student exempt from some or all immunizations will be excluded from school if a vaccine-preventable disease is present in the school or an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable illness occurs in the community as declared by the local health authorities and/or the Texas Commissioner of Public Health. The school nurse will notify the parent when exclusion from school is necessary and when it is safe for the student to return to school. If the student is at school at the time of the outbreak, the parent must pick up the student from school immediately. The student will be excluded from school until the school nurse determines the threat of illness has passed.

*Physician is defined as an M.D. or D.O., duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the U.S. The physician may not be a parent or family member of the child.