

## THE JOY SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION POLICY

August 1, 2020

Every student enrolled in The Joy School must 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.

Attendance at The Joy School is contingent on students being current on all required immunizations. Prior to the first day of school, all students must present valid written evidence from their treating physician (M.D. or D.O.) reflecting that either (1) all required immunizations have been received or (b) immunity is present in each category by titers drawn within the past calendar year. The treating physician must be properly licensed and in good standing with the State of Texas. The physician's signature or stamp must be present on the immunization record.

The only exception to the foregoing requirement accepted by The Joy School is a medical exemption signed by the student's treating physician (M.D. or D.O.). Any student requesting a medical exemption must present a written statement to The Joy School, from their treating physician, stating that "in the physician's opinion, the vaccine(s) 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 household" (25 Tex. Admin. Code §97.62). The document must specify which vaccine(s) is included and state a specific and valid medical contraindication as defined in the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention's General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization: Contraindications and Precautions](#). Unless the physician states a lifelong condition exists, the exemption is valid for one year from the date signed. The treating physician's license number must be reflected on the medical exemption documentation.

The Joy School does not consider conscience-based exemptions or any other non-medical exemptions.

Students with exemptions may be excluded in times of emergency or epidemic.

### **Statement from the Texas Attorney General**

"Conscientious objections or waivers, which may be permissible for attendance in public schools, do not qualify as an exemption in Private Schools. 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)."