

Diocese of Savannah Catholic Schools Policy 5200: Student Immunizations

Certificates of Immunization

Immunizations are not contrary to the Catholic faith. Every student enrolled in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Savannah shall be immunized in accordance with the Georgia Department of Public Health schedule for childhood vaccines. Certificates of Immunization, Georgia Form 3231, must always be current. A student who fails to present the required evidence shall not be accepted for enrollment.

There are no exceptions to the requirement unless the student presents a medical exemption as outlined in the Georgia Department of Public Health's Immunization Guidelines for Schools and Childcare Facilities.

- Medical exemptions are permitted only when a child has a medical condition that keeps him from being able to receive a specific vaccine(s), not all vaccines.
- Medical exemptions must be marked on the Georgia Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231).
- A letter from a physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) or physician assistant (PA) attached to the certificate will not be accepted as a medical exemption. It must be marked on the certificate.
- A physician, APRN or PA must re-evaluate the need for a medical exemption at least once each year and issue a new certificate of immunization at that time. The date of expiration on the section of the certificate marked "medical exemption" should be one year from the date of issue and never exceed one year.

Serology testing shall not be considered an acceptable method for determining medical exemption.

All requests for medical exemptions shall be directed to and approved by the Superintendent of Schools.