

Resolution Regarding Immunization Policy

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Congregation Beth Torah to adopt a policy that shall be enforced by the Weiner Religious School regarding mandatory state immunization requirements; and

WHEREAS, after much research and discussion, it has been decided to adopt a policy in line with Reform Jewish religious tenets to protect the health of all individuals and the community as a whole.

NOW, LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that the Weiner Religious School shall adopt the state of Kansas state mandatory immunization requirements and not accept a religious exemption as reason for avoiding mandatory immunization requirements.

Passed by the Board of Trustees on December 10, 2018

Immunization Record Collection Policy and Procedure

Beginning with the 5780 academic year, each learner enrolling in the Weiner Religious School are required to present, prior to attending school, certification from a physician or local health department indicating that the learner has received all the immunizations required by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in the required number and with appropriate spacing of doses. The purpose of this signed statement is to verify that students have been immunized for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT/Td), polio, hepatitis B, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and varicella (chickenpox).¹

This record must show compliance with the Kansas or Missouri State Immunization Requirements (as determined by learner's residency) or provide documentation from a licensed physician.

We recognize that individuals, who have had a documented allergy or severe adverse reaction to a particular vaccine, will not be able to receive further doses of that individual vaccine. In addition, individuals with medical conditions such as congenital immunodeficiency or HIV, malignancies receiving chemotherapy, transplant patients, and persons receiving immunosuppressive drugs and chronic steroids, will not be able to receive certain vaccines. In these instances, a physician documenting the problem and exempting the child from further doses of that specific vaccine must be furnished to the Religious School. In addition, if an individual or his/her family believes that a specific situation poses extenuating circumstances, and furnishes a letter from a medical doctor (MD) substantiating this contention, the School will review such situations on a case by case basis.)²

¹ Blue Valley School District School Health Program
(<https://district.bluevalleyk12.org/ParentsAndStudents/FormsAndDocsKindergarten/Required-Immunization-Letter.pdf>)

² Adapted from the URJ's Vaccine Exemption Policy <http://data.urjcamp.org/docs/URJVaccineStatement.pdf>

K.A.R. 28-1-20 Defines immunizations required for any individual who attends school or a preschool or childcare program operated by a school.

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP): five doses required/four doses acceptable if dose 4 given on or after the 4th birthday. A single dose of Tdap required at grades 7- 12 if no previous history of Tdap vaccination regardless of interval since the last Td vaccine.
- Poliomyelitis (IPV/OPV): four doses required/three doses acceptable. One dose required after age 4 regardless of the number of previous doses, with a 6-month minimum interval from the previous dose.
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella: two doses required
- VARICELLA (chickenpox): two doses required for grades K-12, unless history of varicella disease documented by a licensed physician.
- Hepatitis B: three doses required through grade 12.³

When an adult fills out the “Health and Safety” section of the school registration form for each learner, they will be asked to affirm the following statement:

“Learner #1 [2, 3, 4] is in compliance with the state of Kansas or Missouri immunization requirements and I will provide the synagogue office with the latest copy of this record by the date school begins in the fall.”

The document may be transmitted in hard copy or digital format and will be stored in the office of the Director of Lifelong Learning. The Director of Lifelong Learning and School Office will follow up with families to obtain records by the first day of school in the fall.

In subsequent years, those returning to the school will submit their latest records as they enter kindergarten and seventh grade, in accordance with Kansas or Missouri State Policy. New enrollees are required to submit upon their first registration with the school and at the benchmarks noted above.

Why Now?

In reviewing the school’s policies and procedures, and in light of recent outbreaks of measles and other preventable diseases in our area, Rabbi Kleinman recommended the board adopt such a policy, and they did so on December 10, 2018. Safeguarding our children and community from preventable diseases exemplifies the Jewish value of *shmirat haguf* (guarding the body) and working to ensure the safety of everyone in our community.

³ Detailed immunization requirements by age group are listed on the 02/2018 version of the Kansas Certificate of Immunization (KCI). http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/download/KCI_Form.pdf