

LINCOLN DIOCESAN IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Students enrolling in the Lincoln Diocesan Catholic Schools are expected to be vaccinated according to the requirements of state law.

The following exceptions are recognized:

Medical

This requires a waiver signed by a competent medical authority, i.e. Physician, Physician's Assistant, or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse.

Personal Conscience

Parents/guardians must submit a sworn and notarized affidavit listing which required immunizations have not been received.

Although an exemption may not be claimed on the basis that use of current immunizations directly violates Catholic religious-moral teaching, parents may discern the issue in accord with their well-formed consciences. However, key elements of the Church's teaching on immunization must be read and parents/guardians must sign an affidavit affirming that these are ecclesial teachings to which Catholics must offer "a religious submission of the intellect and will."

The school is to receive an assurance from parents/guardians that they understand and accept the risks associated with the omission of immunization.

If a disease for which the child is not immunized breaks out in the community (or if the child contracts the disease), then the child will not be allowed to attend school until the outbreak is contained (or the child recovers and presents a release from a medical professional or physician's note assuring recovery). The school is not obligated to modify services during this time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CHURCH TEACHING

The use of vaccinations currently required of children under Nebraska State law does not constitute a direct violation of Catholic moral teaching.

“On Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Fetuses”

“As regards the diseases against which there are no alternative vaccines which are available and ethically acceptable, it is right to abstain from using these vaccines if it can be done without causing children, and indirectly the population as a whole, to undergo significant risks to their health. However, if the latter are exposed to considerable dangers to their health,” [the determination of which is generally considered to be within the competency of the medical community, not the Church or individuals] “vaccines with moral problems pertaining to them may also be used on a temporary basis. The moral reason is that the duty to avoid passive material cooperation is not obligatory if there is grave inconvenience. Moreover, we find, in such a case, a. proportional reason, in order to accept the use of these vaccines in the presence of the danger of favoring the spread of the pathological agent, due to the lack of vaccination of children. This is particularly true in the case of vaccination against German measles.”

“German measles may result in Congenital Rubella Syndrome. Congenital Rubella Syndrome “could occur, causing grave congenital malformations in the fetus, when a pregnant woman enters into contact, even if it is brief, with children who have not been immunized and are carriers of the virus. In this case, the parents who did not accept the vaccination of their own children become responsible for the malformations in question, and for the subsequent abortion of fetuses, when they have been discovered to be malformed.”

Pontifical Academy for Life, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 2005

With these signatures, we attest that we have read, understand and recognize the aforementioned points to be Church teaching, to which Catholics must offer "a religious submission of the intellect and will."

Name of Father/1st Guardian

Date

Name of Mother/2nd Guardian

Date

ASSURANCE STATEMENT

We, the parent(s) /guardian(s) of _____, understand the medical risks associated with the omission of immunizations. We acknowledge that neither the school, nor its employees or agents, shall be responsible for any illness contracted by _____(student), or any related costs, associated with the omission of immunizations.

Name of Father/1 st Guardian	Date	Name of Mother/2 nd Guardian	Date
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