

## STUDENT VACCINATIONS

### Background

The Division believes that parents are the foremost educators of their children and have the right to make decisions for their children that are in conformity with their moral and religious convictions. This belief also extends to parents serving as the primary educators and decision-makers for healthcare matters that relate to their children. This includes responsibility for decisions to receive or refrain from vaccinations made available to their children through Alberta Health Services' school-based vaccination program.

The Division further recognizes that Catholic schools are entities that must act in accordance with their own institutional integrity and refers to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church for guidance on student vaccination issues that may have moral and ethical implications.

### Procedures

1. Alberta Health Services (AHS) is recognized as the provincial health authority overseeing the delivery of in-school vaccination programs for students and school administration will liaise with AHS designates for the purposes of coordinating the scheduling of such vaccinations.
2. School administration will ensure school staff assist with the distribution and collection of vaccination information and consent forms for all vaccines that are a part of AHS's school-based vaccination program that protect against infections transmitted primarily through non-sexual means.
3. For infections transmitted primarily through sexual means, AHS will be requested by the Superintendent, or designate, to have the distribution and collection of consent forms, and information related thereto, occur directly between AHS and the parent/guardian.
  - 3.1 No member of school staff shall facilitate in the distribution or collection of consent forms for vaccines referred to in clause 3.
  - 3.2 In the event that a consent form for a vaccination referred to in clause 3 is returned to the school the student and/or parent shall have the form returned and be notified to send the form directly to AHS.
4. The Superintendent, prior to September 30<sup>th</sup> of each school year, will provide a letter to principals that is to be sent to the parents and guardians of all students who are scheduled to participate in the AHS school-based vaccination program for that school year. The letter will contain basic information regarding vaccination consent processes and a copy of Board Policy 21: Vaccinations.
  - 4.1 It is the principal's responsibility to ensure the letter from the Superintendent is distributed to parents and guardians upon receipt from the Superintendent.

5. When any vaccinations are to occur, the principal will ensure temporary signage on the exterior wall or door of the room in which AHS in-school vaccinations take place and the signage shall read: "Alberta Health Services – School Services: Temporary Vaccination Site."

Reference: Section 8, 18, 20, 60, 113, 117, School Act  
Public Health Act  
Communicable Disease Regulation AR 238/85  
Policy 21 – Vaccinations