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P-CDOP

**HEALTH EXAMINATIONS AND IMMUNIZATIONS**

**Dental Health Exam Required**. All students in kindergarten, Grade 2, and Grade 6 are required to have an oral health examination. Examinations must be performed by a licensed dentist. Each school must give notice of the dental examination requirement to the parents or guardians of the students at least 60 days prior to May 15 of each school year. If a child fails to present proof of the required dental examination, the school may hold the child’s report card.

**Vision Exam Required**. All students enrolling in kindergarten and any student enrolling for the first time in a private or parochial school are required to have an eye examination. The eye examination requirement does not apply to children enrolling in preschool. Before October 15th of the school year, each child to whom the eye examination requirement applies is required to present proof of an eye examination by a licensed optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye examinations. If a child fails to present proof of the required eye examination, the school may withhold the child’s report card.

**Health Exam Required.** Each student in a Catholic school in the Catholic Diocese of Peoria shall have a health examination within one year prior to entering preschool; prior to entering kindergarten or the first grade; and upon entering the sixth and ninth grades; and upon entering a school pursuant to a transfer, regardless of the student’s grade level.

**Immunizations Required.** Each Catholic school student shall receive such immunizations against preventable communicable diseases as are required by the Illinois School Code and the Communicable Disease Prevention Act, at the time those immunizations are required to be received, unless one of the exceptions listed below is satisfied.

**Proof of Health Exam and Immunizations Required.** A student’s parent/legal guardian must supply proof of both the health exam and the required immunizations no later than the beginning of the school year. Where proof is not submitted, the school will notify the parent/legal guardian that he or she has until October 15th of the current school year in which to have the student examined and receive the immunizations, and present proof of same.

**Noncompliance with this Policy.** Failure to provide proof of required health exams and immunizations shall result in the student being excluded from school until the parent/legal guardian presents proof of the exams and the immunizations, and the parent/legal guardian is deemed in violation of the Illinois School Code during the period of noncompliance.

**Objections to Examinations and/or Immunizations.**

A parent/legal guardian who objects to his/her student being examined and/or immunized is eligible to be exempt from exams and/or immunizations only as follows:

* **Medical Objection.** Any medical objection to an immunization must be presented by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches indicating the reason(s), and signed by the physician on the certificate of student health examination and placed on file in the student’s permanent record. Should the condition of the student later permit immunization, this requirement will then have to be met.
* **Religious Objection.** Children of parents or legal guardians who object to health, dental, or eye examinations or any part thereof, to immunizations, or to vision and hearing screening tests on religious grounds shall not be required to undergo the examinations, tests, or immunizations to which they so object if such parents or legal guardians present to the local school authority a signed Certificate of Religious Exemption detailing the grounds for objection and the specific immunizations, tests, or examinations to which they object. The grounds for objection must set forth the specific religious belief that conflicts with the examination, test, immunization, or other medical intervention. The signed certificate shall also reflect the parent’s understanding of the school’s exclusion policies in the case of a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or exposure. The certificate must also be signed by the authorized examining health care provider responsible for the performance of the child’s health examination confirming that the provider provided education to the parent or legal guardian on the benefits of immunization and the health risks to the student and to the community of the communicable diseases for which immunization is required. The Certificate of Religious Exemption form is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health website at:

<http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/religious-exemption-form-081815-040816.pdf>.

The form may not be used for exemptions from immunizations and/or examinations for personal or philosophical reasons. Illinois law does not allow for such exemptions.

* The school shall inform the parent or legal guardian, at the time that the exemption is presented, of exclusion procedures should there be an outbreak of one or more diseases from which the student is not protected.

**Determination of Objection to Examination and/or Immunization.** The school is to forward all objections to the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, attention Superintendent of Schools, for determination of whether the required documentation has been presented for an exemption from health examination and/or immunization requirements. The final decision regarding whether a valid exemption exists rests with the Superintendent of Schools.

**List of Non-Immunized Students.** An accurate list shall be maintained at every school of those who have not presented proof of immunity against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, rubella, mumps, Haemophilus influenzae type b, hepatitis B, or Varicella.

Reviewed 7/2018, 6/2020, 7/2021, 7/2022

Revised 7/2018, 6/2020