

## **VACCINATION PROTOCOL**

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to serve the children and parents of the division in the best interests of the students' physical, mental, spiritual, emotional and moral health.

The division is committed to health education programs, including with respect to immunizations, which address the moral and ethical aspects of disease prevention, consistent with fully-permeated Catholic philosophy, theology, practices and beliefs, in keeping with the basic moral principles of respect and dignity for all human life, consistent with Gospel values.

Schools will help all students to realize their responsibility to transform the world by practicing their Catholic faith. The Board and schools are complementary to the family, which is the primary agent for the child's formation.

1. The division affirms that parents or guardians are the primary educators and decision-makers for health care matters for their children, and the decision to receive an immunization is strictly a parental responsibility. The division does not endorse any of the vaccines administered by Alberta Health Services and defers to Alberta Health Services to determine the public health benefits.
2. The division recognizes that neither it nor its employees possess the expertise nor healthcare knowledge to determine the clinical need for, or to be directly involved in, an immunization program. All immunization programs are the programs of Alberta Health Services and are established, organized, staffed, and administered by Alberta Health Services.
3. The division recognizes that the decision to immunize must be made voluntarily by the parent/guardian through informed consent. Alberta Health Services may request that the division accommodate an immunization program by sending home to parents/guardians health and immunization information and parental consent forms for immunization.
4. The division may authorize the use of its facilities by Alberta Health Services for the purpose of delivering an immunization program.
5. In addition, upon introduction to a new vaccine, Holy Spirit Catholic School Division would contact the Bishop for a written moral perspective which may be distributed to affected parents.

**Legal References:** Sections 33, 52, 196, 197, 222, *Education Act*  
*Public Health Act*