

IMMUNIZATIONS

Background

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is committed to serve the children and parents within the context of Catholic teachings and traditions. The schools will help all students to realize their responsibility to transform the world by practicing the Catholic faith. The Board and schools are complimentary to the family, which is the primary agent for the child's formation.

Procedures

1. The Division confirms 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 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. The Division reaffirms its position that the administration of some vaccines in Catholic Schools is incongruent with the educative mission of our Catholic schools.
2. The Division recognizes that neither it nor its employees possess the expertise nor health care knowledge to determine the clinical need for or to be directly involved in the delivery of an immunization program. All immunization programs are the programs of Alberta Health Services and are established, organized, staffed and administered by Alberta Health Services. The Division disassociates itself from some elements of the Alberta Health Services vaccination program by requesting that Alberta Health Services distributes and collects consent forms directly from parents for vaccinations that are incongruent with the educative mission of our Catholic schools.
3. The Division recognizes that all immunizations must be wholly voluntary, parental or guardian consent must be granted, and appropriate educational information must be provided with respect to each immunization to parents or guardians before consent is requested.
4. The Division authorizes the use of its facilities by Alberta Health Services for the purpose of delivering an immunization program that are part of their public health program, while not participating in the distribution or collection of parental consent forms for vaccinations that are incongruent with the educative mission of our Catholic schools.



5. The Division maintains the option to review the delivery of vaccines that may be incongruent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

5.1 This review may be conducted in consultation with Alberta Health Services and the Archbishop to ensure the vaccine is in the best interest of students' health.

5.2 The Board of Trustees, on November 12, 2013, has declared that Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is incongruent with the educative mission of our Catholic Schools

References:

Motion 2815 – HPV Administration – Approved by the Board of Trustees on October 8, 2013
Section 60 (8) School Act

