

# Beth El Early Learning Center 2026-2027 Immunization Policy

## Purpose

At the Beth El Early Learning Center, we are dedicated to fostering a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment rooted in Jewish values and communal responsibility. To uphold the highest standards of health and safety for our children, families, and staff, we require full compliance with the Florida Department of Health and American Academy of Pediatrics Immunization schedule for all enrolled students. In the event of an inconsistency between the standards of the Florida Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Beth El Early Learning Center will adhere to the requirements that are the more stringent of the two.

## Jewish Values Guiding This Policy

- **Pikuach Nefesh** – *Preservation of Life*
  - Jewish law holds that preserving human life overrides almost all other commandments. Vaccination is a proven way to protect life by preventing the spread of dangerous and potentially deadly diseases.
- **Arevut** – *Communal Responsibility*
  - We are all responsible for one another. Immunizing children not only protects them individually, but also safeguards our broader community, including infants, the elderly, and those who are medically vulnerable.
- **Refuah** – *Commitment to Healing and Health*
  - Judaism encourages the pursuit of medical knowledge and the use of effective treatments. Vaccines, as affirmed by medical science and supported by rabbinic authorities across denominations, are a critical tool in maintaining public health.

## Policy Statement

To ensure the safety and well-being of our entire school community, The Beth El Early Learning Center requires that:

- All students be fully immunized in accordance with the Florida Department of Health and American Academy of Pediatrics recommended immunization schedule before they can begin attending school.
- Families must submit a valid **Florida Certificate of Immunization (Form DH680)** prior to a child being admitted to school.
- All students must remain current with all recommended vaccinations during the duration of the time they are enrolled at the Beth El Early Learning Center. Updated immunization records (**Form DH 680**) must be submitted prior to the expiration date on the **Form DH680** in the child's school file. Failure to provide updated vaccination records will result in the child being excluded from school until updated records are received. Not providing updated forms consistently in a timely manner could result in expulsion.
- **We DO NOT accept religious exemptions (Form DH681) from immunization requirements.** This is to protect the health of all children in our care, particularly those who are too young or medically unable to be vaccinated. This policy has been adopted with the support of Jewish medical and rabbinic leadership who affirm that vaccination is not only permissible, but a moral obligation for Jewish individuals.

## Medical Exemptions

Requests for valid medical exemptions may be submitted with the following documentation:

- Must be completed and signed by a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) on the **DH Form 680**.
- If a child is missing a vaccination on the Florida Department of Health or American Academy of Pediatrics recommended immunization schedule, it must be listed on the **DH Form 680** as a **Permanent Medical Exemption**.
- The medical condition that precludes immunization and for which vaccines must be clearly specified on the form.

**Requests for Medical Exemptions will be reviewed by Temple Beth El's Immunization Task Force** comprised of medical professionals and Temple staff on a case-by-case basis and may require re-review annually.

## Exclusion Policy

- In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, any student lacking immunity (due to age or with a valid medical exemption) will be excluded from attendance during the outbreak period as directed by the Florida Department of Health.
- In the event that an unvaccinated child (due to age or with a valid medical exemption) is exposed to a vaccine-preventable disease, the parents/guardians must notify the school immediately. The child will be excluded from school for the timeframe recommended by the Florida Department of Health.

## Enforcement

This policy is a condition of enrollment. Parents/Guardians must submit all required immunization forms before the first day of attendance. Failure to comply will result in denial of enrollment or dismissal from the program.

All students enrolled at the Beth El Early Learning Center must remain in compliance with the Florida Department of Health and American Academy of Pediatrics recommended immunization schedules throughout the duration of their time at our school. Updated immunization forms (**Form DH 680**) documenting that recommended vaccinations were received must be submitted prior to expiration dates stated on the form in their student file. Failure to comply will result in exclusion from school until the updated form (**Form DH 680**) is received.

## Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Immunization Policy of The Beth El Early Learning Center. I/We agree to comply with the requirements as a condition of my child's enrollment.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_