



Immunization Policy

At the time of enrollment, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide proof of their child's proper immunizations status in accordance with current Indiana Law. It is the policy of Geist Montessori Academy that a complete immunization record is to be on file in the school nurse's office before your child may attend school. The immunization record needs to be legible and complete with the day, month, and year that they were given. All immunization records received during registration will be reviewed, and you will be contacted if your child's immunization status does not meet the requirements for school entry. State-required immunizations are entered by the school nurse into the school's database. This record will follow your child as he/she transition from school to school. Records can be mailed, faxed or hand-delivered to the school. On the first day of school, any student who does not have a complete immunization record on file will not be allowed to attend. Indiana State Code provides the only acceptable criteria for immunization waivers are based on religious or medical reasons and must be renewed yearly.

Medical Exemption or Religious Objection

- Student must have the Indiana Vaccine Medical Exemption form 54648 (4-11) completed and signed by his/her physician and returned prior to the start of school
- Student must have the Vaccination Exemption Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-34-3-2 Religious Objection form completed and signed by his/her parents and returned prior to the start of school
- Medical exemptions or religious objections must be reviewed and filed annually.

Immunization Waiver

Indiana Law Regarding Immunization Status:

IC 20-34-4-5 Statement of immunization history; waiver; rules Sec. 5.

(a) Each school shall require the parent of a student who has enrolled in the school to furnish, not later than the first day of school attendance, proof of the student's immunization status, either as a written document from the health care provider who administered the immunization or documentation provided from the state immunization data registry.

(b) The statement must show, except for a student to whom IC 20-34-3-2 or IC 20-34-3-3 applies, that the student has been immunized as required under section 2 of this chapter. The statement must include the student's date of birth and the date of each immunization.

(c) A student may not be permitted to attend school beyond the first day of school without furnishing the documentation described in subsections (a) and (b) unless:

(1) the school gives the parent of the student a waiver; or

(2) the local health department or a health care provider determines that the student's immunization schedule has been delayed due to extreme circumstances and that the required immunizations will not be completed before the first day of school.

The waiver referred to in subdivision may not be granted for a period that exceeds twenty (20) school days. If subdivision (2) applies, the parent of the student shall furnish the written statement and a schedule, approved by a health care provider who is authorized to administer the immunizations or the local health department, for the completion of the remainder of the immunizations.

(d) The state department of health may commence an action against a school under IC 4-21.5-3-6 or IC 4-21.5-4 for the issuance of an order of compliance for failure to enforce this section.

Geist Montessori Academy Specific Guidelines:

- Geist Montessori Academy can provide a one-time waiver of 20 days for a student who is in non-compliance with his or her immunization status.
- This can include a medical exemption or religious objection, but other circumstances will be examined on a case by case basis.
- An Immunization Waiver form provided by Geist Montessori Academy must be filled out by the parent and the school nurse must be aware and kept up to date on the child's progress towards meeting the requirements.
- If the 20-day waiver expires and the child's immunizations are not completed, he or she will be unable to attend school, unless a valid medical exemption or religious objection is in place.

Children and Hoosier Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP)

This program is used as a resource for school nurses, educators, and healthcare professionals to document and track immunization status. Geist Montessori Academy will obtain consent from each parent, which allows the designated school nurse to submit or retrieve information to the CHIRP database.