

Temple Emanuel Religious School Immunization Policy

Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרֻבִים זֶה בְּזֵה

Introduction:

The Talmud tells us that “all Israel are responsible for one another” (Shavuot 39a). At Temple Emanuel, we believe that every member of our community has a responsibility not only for him or herself but for other members and the good of the community as a whole. This is true for many aspects of individual and community life, including our ability to keep members of the community healthy to the best of our ability.

Each year, the American Academy of Pediatrics publishes a “Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule.” Practicing pediatricians across North America consider this the standard of care and, indeed, the context in which they practice. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has established vaccine standards for adults. Given the overriding Jewish value that puts a premium on maintaining health, including taking preventive measures, along with the clear public health based need to protect the Temple Emanuel community as a whole, **we expect that all children and staff be immunized in the manner below.**

The vaccination of all members is essential in order to maintain a safe environment and decrease the risk of transmission of preventable illnesses, particularly to those who are unable to vaccinate due to age or medical contraindications. For Temple Emanuel and our parent organization, the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), this is not an issue of individual rights and choice, but an issue of public health and policy. These guidelines are consistent with our community values and those of the URJ, as we strive to provide a safe, accessible place for all members of our community to participate, learn, and grow in their Jewish life.

Policy Statement:

We require that all those who participate in Religious School at Temple Emanuel (including staff) have age-appropriate vaccines recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). To discuss this Immunization Policy further, please make an appointment with the Director of Education.

Policy Exceptions:

We recognize that individuals who have had a documented allergy or severe adverse reaction to a particular vaccine will not be able to receive further doses of that individual vaccine. In addition, individuals with medical conditions such as congenital immunodeficiency or HIV, persons receiving chemotherapy, transplant patients, and persons receiving immunosuppressive drugs and chronic steroids, will not be able to receive certain vaccines. In these instances, we understand that the person may not be fully immunized. We do expect, however, that they will be up to date on all vaccinations that they are able to have.

If your child is not fully vaccinated for any reason, we reserve the right to ask you to keep your child out of school in the event of the outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease. This way we can best reduce possible exposure for your child and the community as a whole.