

## Archdiocese of Atlanta Immunization Policy

**\*Updated February 2026**

All children attending Catholic parish Preschools must meet Georgia state standards for immunization. A current #3231 vaccination form should be on file before the child enters the program, and no child shall continue enrollment in the Preschool for more than 30 days without such evidence.

### Religious Exemption

Catholic doctrine does not support an exemption from immunization based upon a matter of conscience/religious exemption. For this reason, religious exemptions are not accepted in parish Preschool programs. Neither the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops nor the Vatican has issued any statement which would support a religious exemption based on the tenets of the Roman Catholic faith. It is the Archbishop's desire that the current policy be implemented as it is written.

### Medical Exemption

Parish Preschool programs will accept a medical exemption with the appropriate documentation from your child's pediatrician should he present with a condition which would be further complicated by being immunized. The medical exemption is applicable when a child has a long-term condition that contraindicates immunization. Parents requesting a medical exemption from immunization must provide a detailed explanation of the child's condition as documented by his pediatrician. The Archdiocese of Atlanta reserves the right to obtain a second opinion. The medical exemption must be renewed annually.

### Delayed/Alternative Vaccination Schedules

Beginning July 1, 2026, **the Archdiocese and the Office of Catholic schools will no longer accept ANY Delayed/Catch-up schedules for our preschools.** Students will need one of the following:

A current GA #3231 vaccination form that is up to date and complete for that age. **It cannot be expired.**

OR an incomplete #3231 AND a #5300 form. This form must state why a child is not up to date on vaccines. This form can be used if a child is autoimmune compromised, is allergic to a vaccine, or if he or she **or** a sibling had an adverse reaction to a vaccine. IF a doctor wants to use a #5300 form as a means to delay vaccines, the physician will need to complete the form and state the medical reason for the delay. The form cannot be used because a parent is choosing to delay- "Parent requesting delay" is not a valid medical reason, nor is "Physician recommends a delay". There must be some sort of **medical reasoning** (no matter how unusual) behind the #5300. **A new #5300 must be completed EACH year the child is enrolled in a parish Preschool program.**

Epidemic, Outbreak, Exposure

In the event of a contagious disease epidemic, outbreak or exposure, children with medical exemptions or delayed/alternative vaccination schedules will be required to remain at home until their health and safety is no longer at risk.

The Archdiocese recognizes this is a very difficult decision for parents, especially in light of the fact that the medical community is sometimes inconsistent in its own presentation of the risks and benefits of immunization. You know what is best for your children and what you are comfortable with in making these important decisions. Please know that we support you in your decision and affirm your efforts to continually discern what is important for your family.

