



# Ottawa Jewish Community School

*Established in 1949 as Hillel Academy*

## THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION POLICY

### **Background & Context:**

Parents send their children to OJCS with the assumption and expectation that they will learn, thrive, enjoy themselves, benefit from positive social interactions, and, most importantly, be safe and healthy.

Safety and public health remain the number one priority for OJCS. The vaccination of all members of a community creates conditions that protect young children, babies, the elderly, pregnant women, and those who cannot be immunized from harmful and life-threatening diseases.

While parents may have different views on whether and when to vaccinate their children, for OJCS this is not a question of individual rights and choice. Rather, this is more fundamentally an issue of public health, safety, and policy. Routine vaccination is an important public health matter, especially in the confined environment of our school. This has never been truer than now.

Given the overriding Jewish value of Pikuach Nefesh (saving a life), which puts a premium on maintaining health, including taking preventive measures, along with the clear public health based need to protect the school, the campus and the broader community as a whole, we are requiring that all students, faculty, staff, volunteers, employees, and their families, who plan to attend OJCS' premises and/or participate in any OJCS program or activity be immunized as outlined below.

This Policy is based on Ontario Public Health's guidelines for routine childhood vaccines, accessible at: [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/immunization/static/immunization\\_tool.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/immunization/static/immunization_tool.html).

We recommend that you download the free CANImmunize App to keep a secure digital record of your child's immunizations. It also provides reminders for upcoming required immunizations. The App is available at: <https://www.canimmunize.ca/en/home>.

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## **IMMUNIZATION POLICY**

All those who are attending OJCS' premises and/or participating in an OJCS program or activity, including without limitation students, faculty, staff, volunteers, employees, and their families, are required to have received, and to provide to OJCS documentation they have received, all age-appropriate vaccines, subject only to the limited Policy exceptions noted below. The Ontario Public

Health's immunization guidelines on which this Policy is based are subject to change, and OJCS reserves the right to amend and update this Policy accordingly.

Those subject to this Policy who are over the age of 21 and who are not able to provide documentation acceptable to OJCS confirming that they have received the required vaccinations, will be required to sign and provide to OJCS an affidavit indicating that to the best of their knowledge, they have either received their childhood and other required vaccines, or that they have contracted those diseases that results in the individual no longer requiring the applicable vaccination. This affidavit must be in a form acceptable to OJCS.

### **Limited 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, malignancies requiring chemotherapy, transplant patients, and persons receiving immunosuppressive drugs and chronic steroids) will not be able to receive certain vaccines. In these instances, the individual, or in the case of a student, the primary care provider of the student, must provide to OJCS evidence satisfactory to OJCS documenting the problem and exempting the individual from further doses of that specific vaccine. Based on this, OJCS will then determine whether to issue a waiver to the individual from any part of this Policy. Any waiver issued by OJCS following its receipt of such documentation is subject to an annual review, and OJCS can decide not to extend a waiver beyond the initial one-year period, as it may be extended by OJCS. Please note that the Hepatitis B, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), and Meningococcal C vaccines are strongly recommended. If you or your child did not receive childhood immunizations – please follow the Ontario Public Health catch up schedule.

### **Terms and Conditions of Enrollment:**

OJCS' Terms and Conditions on Enrollment provide and require confirmation that I/we agree that I/we will abide, including with respect to our child, with the OJCS Immunization Policy published on the OJCS website from time to time. I/we further agree that should we not abide by that policy, our child may not attend OJCS.

### **COVID-19 / RSV**

***OJCS strongly recommends that all students be vaccinated for COVID-19 & RSV, including all available boosters.***

I/we agree that OJCS may from time to time make changes to its Policy regarding the required use of vaccines or therapeutics to combat COVID-19. Should OJCS make such changes before or during an academic year, the use of such vaccines or therapeutics shall apply to and be mandatory for all those who are attending OJCS' premises and/or participating in an OJCS program or activity, including without limitation students, faculty, staff, volunteers, employees, and their families. In the event that I/we do not permit the use of such vaccines or therapeutics on our child, I/we understand and agree that we will not be in compliance with this Policy, our child will not be permitted to continue as a student at OJCS, and OJCS will not be required to refund any tuition or other amounts paid or payable to OJCS.