

Hill Country Christian School of Austin seeks to provide the safest possible school environment for all members of our community, including protection from exposure to infectious diseases. This policy is intended to gradually decrease the percentage of students in our school who are not fully vaccinated according to [Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students Grades K-12](#) to less than 5% by January 1, 2025 (in five years).

Therefore, effective January 1, 2020, admission to Hill Country Christian School of Austin will require the full complement of vaccinations, as mandated and scheduled for the current school year by the Texas Department of State Health Services (see link above). The only permitted exemption will be medical, re-issued in writing annually by the student's Texas-licensed treating physician (M.D. or D.O.). Medical exemptions must state the specific reason for the exemption and that required vaccines would be medically contraindicated or pose a significant medical risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student's household. Requests for medical exemptions will be considered and granted on a case-by-case basis by a committee that includes the head of school, the school nurse, and other medical professionals.

As of January 1, 2020, the school will no longer accept exemptions from immunizations based on conscientious objections from families new to our community.

Individual family units with students enrolled at Hill Country Christian School of Austin prior to January 1, 2020, are not subject to this policy as long as at least one student remains continuously enrolled at the school. These families are "grandfathered" into previous school policy allowing exemptions for reasons of conscience. Withdrawn students attempting to re-enroll after January 1, 2020, will be subject to this policy unless they have continuously enrolled siblings. Grandfathered conscientious objectors must submit evidence of renewals to the school according to Texas Law. Upon notification of non-compliance by the school nurse, families will receive a 30-day grace period to comply, after which students may be prohibited from classes and other school activities.

A student may be provisionally enrolled if that student has received at least one dose of each specified age-appropriate vaccine. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent dose(s) in each vaccine series on schedule and provide evidence of vaccination to the school. "On schedule" is defined as following the CDC recommended catch-up schedule as described [in this link](#).

All students, absent an exemption, are required to be up to date on vaccines and submit immunization records to the school prior to their first day of class. Upon notification of non-compliance by the school nurse, families will receive a 30-day grace period to comply, after which students may be prohibited from classes and other school activities.