



Temple Emanuel of the Merrimack Valley

Policy Statement on Vaccine Status of Students, Staff, Faculty, and Their Families Attending the TEMV Religious School and Youth Programs

Vaccination has a Jewish context.

Each year, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Canadian Paediatric Society publishes a “Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule”. Practicing pediatricians across North America recognize these schedules as the standard of care regarding childhood and adolescent vaccinations. Concurrently, the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) annually publish vaccine standards for adults.

Among our most cherished Jewish values is the imperative for preserving life and maintaining health. We embrace this value specifically by taking preventive measures to protect the public health of our community as a whole. ***This is why we require all children, staff, faculty, and their families planning to attend the TEMV Religious School and youth programs to adhere to the immunization standards described below.***

Vaccination is a shared responsibility and is our expectation.

Parents send their children to Religious School and youth programs and assume that their children will enjoy themselves, have positive social interactions, learn from the rich Jewish environment, and be safe and healthy. All this fun, friendship-building, Jewish identity affirmation, and character development can only happen if we are absolutely confident that individual safety and public health remain at the center of every decision made throughout the TEMV Religious School and youth programs. Reducing the risk of vaccine-preventable illnesses from entering any of our spaces is simply the single most effective strategy to protect public health. This goal can be accomplished only through the appropriate vaccination of **all** members of our TEMV Religious School and youth programs. Individual families may choose to defer the vaccination of their children; at TEMV, we cannot and will not defer the safety of our Religious School and youth programs.

What we require:

ALL THOSE ATTENDING THE TEMV RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OR YOUTH PROGRAMS are required to have completed the **age-appropriate vaccine schedule** recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Canadian Paediatric Society, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Please note that some of these vaccines are provided as combined doses rather than individually, such as *Pediarix* or *ProQuad*. Ask your healthcare provider if you are not sure which vaccines you or your child(ren) have received.

1. Children below the age of 11 will have completed all of the age-appropriate number of doses of each immunization listed below; the specific number of doses depends on the age of the child. For example, a 2-year-old child will have received 4 doses of DTaP, and a child above age 6 will have received 2 doses of MMR, etc).

**DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis) HiB (Haemophilus Type B)
IPV (Polio)
MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella) PCV13 (Pneumococcus)
Varicella (Chicken Pox)**

2. Children between 11 and 12 years of age will have completed all of their age-appropriate vaccine schedule, which specifically contains the doses as noted here. Again, some of these vaccines are provided as combinations; please check with your child's healthcare provider to confirm that these series have been completed.

**DTaP/DT/TDaP (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus) – 5 doses
Varicella (Chicken Pox) – 2 doses
MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella) – 2 doses**

3. For children over age 11: completion of the above series listed in #2, **PLUS:**

**Meningococcal (Menactra or Menveo) – 1 dose, second booster dose at age 16
TDaP booster (Pertussis, Tetanus) - 1 dose between ages 11–12 (As per above)**

4. For anyone over age 18: completion of the above series listed in #3, **PLUS:**

Pertussis & Tetanus (TDaP) – Booster doses are given every 10 years after the dose given in early adolescence; please ensure you are up to date.
Pneumococcus, Meningococcus, Shingles - Please review your eligibility for these vaccines with your health care provider.

5. Highly recommended for everyone:

Hepatitis A – 2 doses

Hepatitis B – 3 doses

Influenza – 1 dose per year (2 if never previously immunized). Influenza remains a serious illness for all age groups. There have been recent seasonal influenza patterns that have extended into the summer. We **VERY STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that all students and staff receive the **flu vaccine** every year.

6. COVID-19 vaccine

Vaccines against COVID-19 continue to be developed and approved (including emergency use) and are becoming increasingly available. As different subgroups of people are able to obtain access, vaccination is required at age-eligible levels as authorized by the Food and Drug Administration. All members of our community are required to complete the relevant vaccination series, including available booster doses, at least two weeks prior to participating in TEMV programs. You are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines when you have followed the current CDC recommendations. The required vaccination schedule will be different depending on your age, your health status, and when you began your vaccination series.

Pfizer-BioNTech ^[1]	Moderna ^[1]	Johnson & Johnson's Janssen ^[1,2]
Ages Recommended 5+ years old	Ages Recommended 18+ years old	Ages Recommended 18+ years old
Primary Series 2 doses ^[3,4] Given 3 weeks (21 days) apart ^[5]	Primary Series 2 doses ^[3] Given 4 weeks (28 days) apart ^[5]	Primary Series 1 dose
Fully Vaccinated 2 weeks after final dose in primary series	Fully Vaccinated 2 weeks after final dose in primary series	Fully Vaccinated 2 weeks after 1st dose
Booster Dose Everyone ages 12+ should get a booster dose at least 5 months after the last dose in their primary series. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teens 12–17 should only get a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine booster • Everyone 18+ should get a booster dose of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) 	Booster Dose Everyone ages 18+ should get a booster dose of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) at least 5 months after the last dose in their primary series.	Booster Dose Everyone ages 18+ should get a booster dose of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) at least 2 months after the first dose of J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. You may get J&J/Janssen in some situations .
When Boosted A person is considered “boosted” and up to date right after getting their booster dose.	When Boosted A person is considered “boosted” and up to date right after getting their booster dose.	When Boosted A person is considered “boosted” and up to date right after getting their booster dose.

What about catch-up vaccination schedules?

For students undergoing catch-up vaccination, the doses noted above may not be indicated or sufficient. Please discuss specific immunization catch-up strategies with your child's healthcare provider.

What about Gardasil HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine?

This vaccination provides long-lasting protection from cancers caused by HPV, with two doses between ages 11-12, and is strongly endorsed by the American Cancer Society as a primary cancer prevention strategy. While this is not a vaccine that prevents the spread of an illness that directly affects the health of our Religious School and youth programs, it is a safe and effective vaccine that significantly decreases the risk of a very serious and life-threatening cancer. For this reason, we strongly endorse and recommend completion of this component of the childhood vaccination schedule. For more information, please refer to the CDC website "6 Reasons To Get HPV Vaccine For Your Child": www.cdc.gov/hpv/infographics/vacc-six-reasons.html

Exceptions

We recognize that individuals who have had a documented allergy or severe adverse reaction to a particular vaccine may not be able to complete the immunization schedule outlined above. Additionally, individuals with medical conditions, such as those with congenital immunodeficiency or HIV, cancer patients and patients receiving chemotherapy, transplant patients, and people receiving immunosuppressive drugs and chronic steroids also may not be able to receive certain vaccines. **In these extremely rare circumstances, current documentation from a Physician (MD or DO), or a Pediatric/Family Practice Advanced Practice Nurse (ARNP or PNP), describing the reason for exemption from immunization must be furnished to TEMV via the Director of Education.** We are happy to discuss case by case management of the extremely rare circumstance of medical contraindication to partial or complete vaccination.

Thank you!

The vaccination of all members of our community is essential in order to maintain a safe school environment for your child. We thank you for your timely attention to these requirements.