

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

BFIS VACCINATION POLICY

Approved by the Foundation Board in September 2021

I. BFIS MISSION

Our purpose is to engage our diverse school community in the pursuit of educational excellence and success for all students.

II. POLICY OBJECTIVE

BFIS wishes to ensure a safe and healthy school environment for students, parents and staff. This policy aims to reduce the risk of certain infectious diseases, preventing individuals in our community from getting ill of vaccination-preventable diseases (VPD), while at the same time providing the community as a whole with herd immunity (herd immunity is important to also protect of VPD to those in our community unable to get the vaccine for **medical reasons**).

Reasoning: The World Health Organization (WHO) states that “*Immunization is a global health and development success story, saving millions of lives every year*” and “*is a key component of primary health care and an indisputable human right*”. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ranks vaccination among the most significant public health achievements of the 20th century and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) asserts that “*Immunisation is a safe and cost-effective way to protect people – especially infants and young children – from certain infectious diseases*”.

The following has been considered when approving this vaccination policy:

1. **Community:** About 70% of our student population is not local and every school year 100+ students from all over the world join our community. The travelling and human mobility linked to these two factors increase the risk of spreading infectious diseases.
2. **Recent outbreaks:** Measles outbreaks or emerging viruses like COVID-19 remind us that immunization plays an important role in the health and well-being of our community.
3. **Tendency in the US and other EU countries:** In the US, public schools and for most universities, vaccinations are mandatory, now including immunization against Covid-19. In the EU, Italy and France have mandatory immunization (Italy since 2017 and France since 2018). Other countries with mandatory immunization include Greece, Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia and Hungary.

III. SCHOOL REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS

DISEASES

BFIS requires all students enrolled at BFIS to be vaccinated against the communicable diseases listed below **as a condition for school attendance:**

- Diphtheria
- Pertussis / Whooping Cough (*Tosferina*)
- Poliomyelitis
- Haemophilus Influenzae Type B
- Hepatitis B

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- Meningococcal disease serogroup C
- Meningitis ACWY
- Hepatitis A
- Measles (*Sarampion*)
- Rubella (*Rubeola*)
- Parotitis (Mumps) (*Paperas*)
- Varicella Zoster Virus (*Chicken Pox*)
- Pneumococcal disease

Further diseases may be added as recommended by the school nurse and decided by the Head of School.

Meeting immunization requirements, when first enrolling at BFIS does not excuse a student from meeting additional immunization requirements and ensuring that vaccinations are up to date. Parents must follow-up and provide documentation/immunization records (in English, Spanish or Catalan) as requested by the school nurse.

DOSAGES AND SCHEDULE

For **dosages** and **schedule by age group** of the VPDs listed above (and those that may be included in the future) BFIS will follow, as a guideline, the latest vaccination calendar published by the Catalan health administration.

IV. STUDENT CATEGORIES

1. STUDENTS ENROLLED AT BFIS ON THE DATE POLICY IS APPROVED

Students, who do not have the vaccinations listed above, will need to establish a vaccination schedule in coordination with their local pediatrician and the school nurse. The families will need to submit the vaccination plan to the school nurse and a mutual timeline will be established for their vaccination plan.

2. NEWLY ENROLLED STUDENTS

During the enrollment process, all new students must submit the [Doctor Student Health Form](#), which requires a health assessment and verification of required vaccinations, in addition to providing an updated official vaccination/immunization document (in English, Spanish or Catalan) that proves meeting the vaccination requirements listed under Section III. Families must provide additional documentation as requested by the school nurse.

V. EXEMPTIONS TO BFIS VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

Exemptions to BFIS vaccination requirements require a medical certificate issued by a physician (MD) member (“Colegiado”) of a Spanish professional medical association (“Colegio de Médicos”). Families must provide an updated medical certificate if requested by the school nurse.