

Immunisation Policy

Vision: Grow - Flourish - Succeed

Mission: Together we inspire creative, mindful learners who value diversity, support one another and strive for success.

1. Introduction

Prior to enrollment, all students entering GEMS Founders School, Dubai must provide a certificate of their childhood immunisation or other valid proof of immunity for each required disease.

A complete copy of the student's immunisation record from birth to present must be submitted before the school start date. The record should include the month, date, and year each vaccine was administered, be translated into English if originally in another language, and bear a doctor's signature.

2. Purpose of the policy

To prevent, control and eliminate life-threatening infectious diseases and any permanent disability resulting from the disease.

3. Aims and objectives

- Ensure, as far as possible, that all students are immunised according to the age-appropriate schedule set by the Dubai Health Authority (DHA).
- Maintain up-to-date immunisation records for all students in the school clinic.
- Encourage families to keep their child's immunisation status as comprehensive as possible by receiving newly available vaccines when appropriate.

4. Assessment and recording

- GEMS Founders School (GFS) encourages all parents to ensure their children receive all routine vaccinations.
- Students who have missed routine vaccinations but have submitted immunisation consent will be included only in the annual vaccination plan.
- Vaccinations are scheduled throughout the academic year. Information regarding the vaccination schedule will be shared at the beginning of each academic year. Vaccines at school are not administered immediately upon a student becoming due.
- Students who are significantly delayed in immunisation or have never been immunised are not covered under the routine school vaccination program. However, catch-up vaccination sessions will be arranged where possible.
- In accordance with DHA guidelines, school-based immunisation will be provided from Year 2 onwards only.
- The Dubai Health Authority (DHA) provides the following booster doses in schools free of charge:
 - ✓ **Tdap** - for Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus above 7years of age
 - ✓ **DTaP** for Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus below 7years of age
 - ✓ **OPV** (oral) -for Polio
 - ✓ **MMR** - Measles, Mumps, Rubella
 - ✓ **Varicella** - Chickenpox



- ✓ **HPV** – Human Papilloma virus (for Emirati nationals only)
- ✓ **Meningococcal** - Meningitis

Any child attending school should be fully immunised at ages and intervals consistent with the National Immunization Program for their age/grade against the various communicable diseases. Parents are responsible for consulting a physician or paediatrician regarding the following additional immunisations that are routinely administered:

- Hib for Haemophilus Influenza type B
- PCV for Pneumococcal
- BCG for tuberculosis
- Rota virus
- Typhoid vaccine
- HBV for Hepatitis B
- HAV for Hepatitis A
- Seasonal Influenza

Valid immunisation records:

- ✓ Immunisation records from a clinic or hospital in English with the healthcare provider, clinic/hospital's stamp and signature.

For foreign students:

- ✓ Translated official immunisation record from another country in English with a clinic or healthcare provider stamp.

Certificate of immunisation status:

- ✓ All handwritten immunisations to be verified with a healthcare provider or clinic stamp and signature.

5. Roles and responsibilities

Responsibility of the Parents:

On enrolment, a parent/guardian is required to sign an agreement on the Medical Record & Consent Declaration that:

- They will provide a photocopy of a confirmed record of their child's immunisation (such as the Blue Book, Red Book or Immunisation History Statement).
- They will inform GFS Clinic when any updates to the record occur; it is the parents' responsibility to ensure their child's immunisation is kept up to date
- If the parents opt for refusal of immunisation, they should sign the appropriate *Refusal of Vaccination declaration* provided by the school clinic but encouraged and advised to get the vaccination from any Primary DHA healthcare center.

Responsibility of the Medical team:

Licensed healthcare providers such as Registered Physician and Registered Nurses can administer vaccines. Healthcare providers immunise students according to the most current recommended immunisation schedules and must:

- Educate parents and guardians about communicable diseases and immunisations by proper counselling through email or phone or in person.
- Give information on the benefits and risks of immunisation to parents or guardians wanting to exempt or excuse their child from immunisation. In addition, provide declarations of refusals accordingly.
- Ask permission or consent to parents / guardian before giving vaccinations.



- Maintain an Immunisation online sheet and keep health record of all the forms for students with the complete details in accordance with the DHA and give the parents a copy of the record of any vaccines given in the school premises.

6. Inclusion involvement

Students are required to follow the immunisation schedule appropriate to their year group. For example, a student who is 10 years old but has been held back a year should follow the immunisation requirements for that year group.

Students with developmental delays who are enrolled in special education programmes should follow the immunisation schedule corresponding to the year group they are placed in. If they are not assigned to a specific year group, they should follow the requirements for students of a similar age.

For instance, students in special education who are over 10 years old should follow the Year 5 immunisation schedule. Similarly, special education students who are 12 years old should follow the Year 7 requirements, as this is the typical age for students in Year 7.

7. General strategy

If a student is due for more vaccines, it is better to get vaccination done with one doctor (child's own Pediatrician) to avoid missing, delaying, and confusing vaccines and having lesser injections for child. Many vaccines are available in combination single shot and at less price than individual doses.

The student can be granted an exemption from school or health authority routine vaccinations under certain conditions such as:

- Medical condition that contraindicates immunisation
- Participation in a current sequence of immunisations.


Note: parents must provide the school with a written statement signed by their physician before an exemption for immunisation will be considered.

6. Monitoring and review

This policy has been discussed and agreed by the GEMS Founders School, Dubai teaching staff and leadership teams for implementation.

Signed  Date 22 August 2025....
School Doctor

Signed  Date 22 August 2025...
Manager School Operations

Signed  Date 22 August 2025....
Executive Principal/CEO/GEMS Executive Vice President- Education

Next policy review date:
 February 2026