August 7, 2019

Dear school students and families,

The State of Michigan requires certain vaccines for school entrance. If a child cannot be vaccinated because of a medical condition, their physician will issue a medical waiver. *Parents who elect to not vaccinate their child for a non-medical reason are required by law to meet with a county health department nurse to receive a legal Michigan waiver for school entrance, which South Olive will keep on file for the one-year period that waiver is valid.*

It is important to note that even one case of certain vaccine-preventable diseases in a daycare or school may prompt the Ottawa County Department of Public Health to exclude individuals who are not protected from that disease. Exclusion may last for 21 days or longer, depending on the disease.

This authority is granted in the Michigan Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978: “*Section R 325.175 Procedures for physicians, local health officers, and schools for control of diseases and infections. Rule 5, part (4), which states, (4) when a local health officer confirms or reasonably suspects that a student or individual attending school or a group program has a communicable disease, the health officer may, as a disease control measure, exclude from attendance any individuals lacking documentation of immunity or otherwise considered susceptible to the disease until such time as the health officer deems there to be no likely further risk of disease spread.”*

Families are encouraged to vaccinate before exclusion becomes necessary as a disease control measure. Parents who waive vaccines should have a plan in place for childcare and any other educational needs in the event their child is excluded.

For a list of required vaccinations in the State of Michigan, visit: <https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/School_Req_for_Schools_553548_7.pdf>. To schedule a vaccination, please contact your health care provider or the Ottawa County Department of Public Health at 616-396-5266.

In His Service,

South Olive Christian School