

Massachusetts School and Camp Requirements

Massachusetts students must provide documentation of immunizations prior to school entry. School immunization requirements exist to protect students and members of their community from serious vaccine-preventable diseases by ensuring high vaccination rates.

- The [Immunization Requirements for School Entry](#) resource (updated March 3, 2023) outlines the required vaccines by child care/preschool, grades K-6, grades 7-12, and college. While MDPH outlines the required vaccines, schools are responsible for ensuring compliance to the stated requirements. Programs licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) must comply with EEC regulations regarding child and staff immunizations.
- The 2020-21 school year included the addition of new immunization requirements for meningococcal vaccine for school entry. Phase in of this requirement continues.” The flyer, [New Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine \(MenACWY\) Requirement for School Entry](#), answers frequently asked questions about the new requirement.
- Camp directors and parents sending their children to camp may refer to the memo, [Required Immunizations for Children Attending Camp \(DOCX\)](#) for immunization requirements and recommendations for children attending camp.
- The regulation pertaining to school immunization is [105 CMR 220.000 - Immunization of Students Before Admission to School](#).
- Unimmunized or partially immunized homeless children and children in foster care cannot be denied entry to public schools if they do not have immunization records. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (which makes the McKinney-Vento Act more comprehensive) states that if a homeless or foster care child or youth arrives lacking immunizations or medical records, the parent/guardian should be referred to the district's Homeless Education Liaison/foster care point of contact, who has the responsibility to obtain relevant academic records and immunizations or medical records and to ensure that homeless/foster care students are attending school while the records are obtained. The student must be enrolled and permitted to attend public school in the interim. For questions about the Every Student Succeeds Act, please contact the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), at (781) 338-3700 or compliance@doe.mass.edu.

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade are required to be immunized with DTaP/Tdap, polio, MMR, Hepatitis B, and Varicella vaccines **prior to school entry**.

Immunization requirements apply to all full-time undergraduate and graduate students under 30 years of age and all full-time and part-time health science students **prior to school entry**.

Meningococcal requirements apply to all full-time students 21 years of age or younger.

Requirements apply to all students including individuals from another country attending or visiting classes or educational programs as part of an academic visitation or exchange program. Requirements apply to all students, even if over 18 years of age.

Grades 7 – 12†

Applies to all students ≥12 years.

Tdap	1 dose; and history of DTaP primary series or age-appropriate catch-up vaccination. Tdap given at ≥7 years may be counted, but a dose at age 11-12 is recommended if Tdap was given earlier as part of a catch-up schedule. Td or Tdap should be given if it has been ≥10 years since last Tdap
Polio	4 doses; fourth dose must be given on or after the 4 th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose, or a fifth dose is required. 3 doses are acceptable if the third dose is given on or after the 4 th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose
Hepatitis B	3 doses; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable. 2 doses of Heplisav-B given on or after 18 years of age are acceptable
MMR	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and second dose must be given ≥28 days after first dose; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
Varicella	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and second dose must be given ≥28 days after first dose; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable

Meningococcal Requirements

Grade 7-10	1 dose; 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement
Grade 11-12†	2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) must be given on or after the 16th birthday and ≥ 8 weeks after the previous dose. 1 dose is acceptable if it was given on or after the 16th birthday. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement

College (Postsecondary Institutions)**

Requirements apply to all full-time undergraduate and graduate students under 30 years of age and all full- and part-time health science student prior to school entries. Meningococcal requirements apply to the group specified in the table below.

Tdap	1 dose; and history of a DTaP primary series or age-appropriate catch-up vaccination. Tdap given at ≥7 years may be counted, but a dose at age 11-12 is recommended if Tdap was given earlier as part of a catch-up schedule. Td or Tdap should be given if it has been ≥10 years since Tdap
Hepatitis B	3 doses; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable; 2 doses of Heplisav-B given on or after 18 years of age are acceptable
MMR	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and second dose must be given ≥28 days after first dose; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable. Birth in the U.S. before 1957 acceptable only for non-health science students
Varicella	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and second dose must be given ≥28 days after first dose; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable. Birth in the U.S. before 1980 acceptable only for non-health science students
Meningococcal	1 dose; 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required for all full-time students 21 years of age or younger. The dose of MenACWY vaccine must have been received on or after the student's 16 th birthday. Doses received at younger ages do not count towards this requirement. Students may decline MenACWY vaccine after they have read and signed the MDPH Meningococcal Information and Waiver Form provided by their institution. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement