

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING IMMUNIZATIONS OF STUDENTS

In accordance with state law, the Westfield Public Schools requires that, prior to being admitted to school, each child must present a physician's certificate that the child has been successfully immunized according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health School Immunization Regulations which are established annually.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Certificate of Immunization is either:

1. A form or letter signed and dated by a physician or designee; or
2. A dated report from the Massachusetts Immunization Information system which specifies the month and year of administration and the type/name of the vaccine(s) administered to the student.
3. A copy of the school immunization record.

Preschool is a program offered by a public school system on a regular basis, whether known as day care, pre-school or other term, which provides care and custody during all or part of the day, separate from parents, for pre-kindergarten children and which is not regulated by the Office of Child Care Services.

Student is any individual attending, or enrolled or registered to attend, a pre-school program as defined in 105 CMR 220.400, or kindergarten through 12th grade in a public or private school. The term student shall also include any individual from another country attending or visiting classes or educational programs as part of a formal academic visitation or exchange program.

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS

Preschool Students

In accordance with state law, no student shall attend a preschool program in the Westfield Public Schools without a certificate of immunization documenting that the child has been successfully immunized in accordance with current Department of Public Health (DPH) recommended schedules against communicable diseases as specified from time to time by the Department, in accordance with recommendations of the Advisory Committee on IMMUNIZATION Practices of the Centers for Disease Control, or any successor committee serving a comparable function.

Kindergarten through Grade 12 Students

In accordance with state law, no student shall attend kindergarten through 12th grade without a certificate of immunization or a copy of a school immunization record that the student has received the immunizations required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

EXEMPTIONS

Exemption from the pertinent requirements of these administrative regulations shall be granted to any student who:

1. Presents written documentation that he/she meets the standards for medical or religious exemption set forth in M.G.L. c. 76, § 15 (described below);
2. In the case of measles, mumps, rubella and hepatitis B, presents laboratory evidence of immunity; or
3. In the case of varicella, presents laboratory evidence of immunity or a statement signed by a physician that the student has a history of chickenpox disease.

Enrollment of homeless children and youth may not be denied or delayed due to the lack of any document normally required for enrollment. If a homeless student cannot produce sufficient documentation regarding immunizations, the student and/or the student's parents or guardians shall be referred to the school district's Homeless Liaison who will assist in obtaining the necessary immunizations or immunization/medical records.

Medical Exemptions:

1. To qualify for a medical exemption, a student must present certification from a physician that he/she has personally examined such student and that in his/her opinion, the physical condition of the student is such that the student's health would be endangered by the required vaccination or immunization.
2. Such a certification must be submitted at the beginning of each school year to the physician in charge of the school health program.
3. If the school physician disagrees with the opinion of the student's physician, the matter shall be referred to the DPH.

Religious Exemptions:

1. To qualify for a religious exemption, the parent and/or guardian of a student must present in writing a statement that the required vaccination or immunization conflicts with his/her religious beliefs.
2. No religious exemption shall be granted in the event of an emergency or epidemic of disease declared by the DPH.

LEGAL REFS:

M.G.L. c. 111, § 5 § 6; § 7

M.G.L. c. 71, § 55; § 56

105 CMR § 220.000 through 220.500

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § § 11431 et seq

ADOPTED: May 17, 2004

1st reading waived & 2nd final reading: May 16, 2016

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2nd/final reading & amended: October 5, 2020

1st reading waived & 2nd final reading & amended: January 21, 2020

Massachusetts School Immunization Requirements 2020-2021§

Massachusetts school immunization requirements are created under authority of [105 CMR 220.000 Immunization of Students Before Admission to School](#)

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.

Childcare/Preschool¶†

Attendees <2 years should be immunized for their age according to the [ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule](#). Requirements listed in the table below apply to all attendees ≥2 years. These requirements also apply to children in preschool classes called K0 or K1.

Hib	1-4 doses ; the number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins
DTaP	4 doses
Polio	3 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses ; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
MMR	1 dose ; must be given on or after the 1 st birthday; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
Varicella	1 dose ; must be given on or after the 1 st birthday; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable

§ Address questions about enforcement with your legal counsel.

¶ Meningococcal vaccine requirements (see Grades 7-10 and 11-12) also apply to residential students in Grades Pre-K through 8 if the school combines these grades in the same school as students in Grades 9-12.

†Medical exemptions (statement from a physician stating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated for a student) and religious exemptions (statement from a student, or parent/guardian if the student is <18 years of age, stating that a vaccine is against sincerely held religious beliefs) should be renewed annually at the start of the school year.

*A reliable history of chickenpox includes a diagnosis of chickenpox, or interpretation of parent/guardian description of chickenpox, by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or designee.

See following pages for Grades K-6, 7-10, Grades 11-12, and College (Postsecondary Institutions)

Grades Kindergarten – 6^{¶†}

In ungraded classrooms, Kindergarten requirements apply to all students ≥5 years.

DTaP	5 doses; 4 doses are acceptable if the fourth dose is given on or after the 4 th birthday. DT is only acceptable with a letter stating a medical contraindication to DTaP
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
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

§ Address questions about enforcement with your legal counsel. School requirements are enforced at the local level.

¶ Meningococcal vaccine requirements (see Grades 7-10 and 11-12) also apply to residential students in Grades Pre-K through 8 if the school combines these grades in the same school as students in Grades 9-12.

†Medical exemptions (statement from a physician stating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated for a student) and religious exemptions (statement from a student, or parent/guardian if the student is <18 years of age, stating that a vaccine is against sincerely held religious beliefs) should be renewed annually at the start of the school year.

* A reliable history of chickenpox includes a diagnosis of chickenpox, or interpretation of parent/guardian description of chickenpox, by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or designee.

See following pages for Grades 7-10, Grades 11-12, and College (Postsecondary Institutions)

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†

In ungraded classrooms, Grade 7 requirements apply 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

NEW – Meningococcal Requirements

Grade 7	1 dose; 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement.
Grade 11‡	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.

Meningococcal Vaccine Phase-In Schedule

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1 Dose MenACWY	Grade 7	Grades 7-8	Grades 7-9	Grades 7-10
2 Doses MenACWY	Grade 11	Grades 11-12	Grades 11-12	Grades 11-12

§ Address questions about enforcement with your legal counsel. School requirements are enforced at the local level.

†Medical exemptions (statement from a physician stating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated for a student) and religious exemptions (statement from a student, or parent/guardian if the student is <18 years of age, stating that a vaccine is against sincerely held religious beliefs) should be renewed annually at the start of the school year.

A reliable history of chickenpox includes a diagnosis of chickenpox, or interpretation of parent/guardian description of chickenpox, by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or designee.

‡ Students who are 15 years old in grade 11 are in compliance until they turn 16 years old.

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.

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 students. 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

§ Address questions about enforcement with your legal counsel. School requirements are enforced at the local level.

** The immunization requirements apply to all students who attend any classes or activities on campus, even once. If all instruction and activities are remote and the student will never be on campus in person, the requirements would not apply. Should a student physically return to campus, they would need comply with this requirement

†Medical exemptions (statement from a physician stating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated for a student) and religious exemptions (statement from a student, or parent/guardian if the student is <18 years of age, stating that a vaccine is against sincerely held religious beliefs) should be renewed annually at the start of the school year.

A reliable history of chickenpox includes a diagnosis of chickenpox, or interpretation of parent/guardian description of chickenpox, by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or designee.