

## **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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

1<sup>st</sup> reading waived

2<sup>nd</sup> final reading: May 16, 2016

**Massachusetts School Immunization Requirements for School Year 2015-2016\***

	Child Care/ Preschool <sup>1</sup>	Kindergarten	Grades 1-6	Grades 7-12	College <sup>2</sup>
<b>Hepatitis B<sup>3</sup></b>	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses for all health science students and full-time undergraduate and graduate students
<b>DTaP/DTP/DT/Td/Tdap<sup>4</sup></b>	≥4 doses DTaP/DTP	5 doses DTaP/DTP	≥4 doses DTaP/DTP or ≥3 doses Td	4 doses DTaP/DTP or ≥3 doses Td; plus 1 dose Tdap (See Phase-In Schedule)	All health science students and full-time undergraduate students: 1 dose Tdap
<b>Polio<sup>5</sup></b>	≥3 doses	4 doses	≥3 doses	≥3 doses	NA
<b>Hib<sup>6</sup></b>	1 to 4 doses <sup>6</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>MMR<sup>7</sup></b>	1 dose	2 doses	Grades 1-4: 2 doses Grades 5-6: 2 doses measles, 1 mumps, 1 rubella (See Phase-in Schedule)	Grades 7-11: 2 doses Grade 12: 2 doses measles, 1 mumps, 1 rubella (See Phase-in Schedule)	All health science students and full-time undergraduate and graduate students: 2 doses
<b>Varicella<sup>8</sup></b>	1 dose	2 doses	Grades 1-4: 2 doses Grades 5-6: 1 dose (See Phase-in Schedule)	Grades 7-11: 2 doses Grade 12: 1 dose (See Phase-in Schedule)	All health science students and full-time undergraduate and graduate students: 2 doses
<b>Meningococcal<sup>9,10</sup></b>	NA	NA	NA <sup>10</sup>	1 dose for new full-time residential students <sup>9</sup>	1 dose for full-time residential students <sup>9</sup>

\*These requirements also apply to all new “enterers” NA = no vaccine requirement for the grades indicated

<sup>1</sup> **Child Care/Preschool:** Minimum requirements by 24 months; immunize younger children according to their age.

<sup>2</sup> **College:** Requirements apply to: 1) all full-time undergraduate and graduate students; 2) all full-time and part-time health science students; and 3) any full-time or part-time student attending any postsecondary institution while on a student or other visa, including foreign students attending or visiting classes as part of a formal academic visitation or exchange program.

<sup>3</sup> **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses required for child care attendance and preschool entry, kindergarten-12 grade, and college (see footnote 2 above). Laboratory proof of immunity is acceptable.

<sup>4</sup> **DTaP/DTP/DT/Td/Tdap:** ≥4 doses required for child care attendance and preschool entry; 5 doses of DTaP/DTP required for school entry unless the 4<sup>th</sup> dose is given ≥ the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. DT is only acceptable with a letter stating a medical contraindication to DTaP/DTP. **One dose of Tdap is required for all students entering grade 7-11, full time college freshmen-graduates and all health science students.** If it has been <5 years since the last dose of DTaP/DTP/DT/Td, Tdap is not required but is recommended regardless of the interval since the last tetanus-containing vaccine. See Phase in Schedule below.

<sup>5</sup> **Polio:** ≥3 doses required for child care attendance and entry into preschool, 4 doses required for school entry, unless the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose is given on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday, and ≥6 months following the previous dose, in which case only 3 doses are needed. Administer the final dose in the series on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday and ≥6 months following the previous dose. If 4 doses are administered before age 4 years, a 5<sup>th</sup> dose is recommended at age 4-6 years.

<sup>6</sup> **Hib:** Required for child care attendance and preschool entry. The number of doses is determined by vaccine produce and age the series begins.

<sup>7</sup>**MMR:** 1 dose of MMR is required for child care attendance and preschool entry; **2 doses are required for kindergarten-grade 4, grade 7-11, full-time undergraduate and graduate students and all health science students.** Laboratory proof of immunity is acceptable. **For college students, except health science students, birth before 1957 in the US is also acceptable.** See Phase-In Schedule below.

<sup>8</sup>**Varicella:** 1 dose required for child care attendance and preschool entry; **2 doses required for kindergarten-grade 4, grade 7-11, full time undergraduate and graduate students and all health science students, unless they have a reliable history of chickenpox.** A reliable history includes a diagnosis of chickenpox, or interpretation of parent/guardian description of chickenpox, by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or designee; or 2) laboratory proof of immunity. **Birth before 1980 in the US is acceptable for college students, except health science students.** See Phase-In Schedule below.

<sup>9</sup>**Meningococcal:** 1 dose of MCV4, or a dose of MPSV4 in the last 5 years, is required for 1) newly enrolled full-time students attending secondary school with grades 9-12 (in ungraded classrooms, those with students  $\geq 13$  years) who will live in a dormitory or comparable congregate living arrangement approved by a postsecondary institution; and 2) newly enrolled full-time undergraduate and graduate students in a degree program at a postsecondary institution (e.g., college) who will live in a dormitory or comparable congregate living arrangement approved by the institution.

Students may decline the vaccine after they have read and signed the MDPH Meningococcal Information and Waiver Form provided by their institution. These requirements apply to newly-enrolled full-time residential students, regardless of grade and year of study.

<sup>10</sup>**At residential schools with lower grades:** The requirements apply to residential students in grades pre-K through 8 only if the school combines these grades in the same school with students in grades 9-12.

**Phase-In Schedule for MMR, Varicella, and Tdap Vaccines 2015-2017**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
2 MMR and 2 Varicella	K-4 and 7-11 College: full-time freshman-graduates; all health sciences	K-5 and 7-12 College: full-time freshman-graduates; all health sciences	K-12 College: full-time freshman-graduates; all health sciences
Tdap	Grades 7-11 College: full-time freshman-graduates; all health sciences	Grades 7-12 College: full-time freshman-graduates; all health sciences	Grades 7-12 College: full-time freshman-graduates; all health sciences