

IMMUNIZATION		File: JLCB
Section J. Students	Adopted: 9/1/05	Revised: 12/7/23

Immunization

All students who enroll at the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf programs are required by Maine law to present a certificate of immunization or evidence of immunization or immunity against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (chicken pox).

According to Maine's rules for the Licensing of Child Care Facilities, a child care facility must have on file, within thirty (30) days of the child's first admission to the preschool program and updated annually after, a Certificate of Immunization which clearly illustrates each child's present immunization status and that they are up to date with routine screenings. The following immunizations must be documented:

- measles,
- mumps,
- rubella,
- diphtheria,
- pertussis,
- polio,
- tetanus,
- haemophilus influenza type B,
- hepatitis B,
- pneumococcal conjugate,
- VZV (Varicella or chicken pox), and
- Hepatitis A.

A blood test demonstrating immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella can be provided as proof of immunity. If immunization is medically inadvisable, a written statement from the child's physician is acceptable and will be kept in the child's file. In the event of a disease outbreak, children not vaccinated for medical reasons must be excluded from the program until the outbreak no longer exists, or until the child receives the necessary immunization.

One dose of Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) is required for students entering 7th grade.

Immunization against meningococcal disease is required as follows:

- A. One dose of meningococcal vaccine MCV4 is required for students entering 7th grade.

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B. Students entering 12th grade are required to have received two doses of MCV4. The first dose shall have been received on or after the 11th birthday, and the second dose shall have been received on or after the 16th birthday, at least eight weeks after the first dose. Only one dose is required if the first dose is administered when the student is 16 years of age or older. Non-immunized students shall not be permitted to attend school unless one of the following conditions are met:

1. The parents/guardian provide to the school written assurance that children in grades K-12 will be immunized within 90 days of enrolling in school or his/her first attendance in classes, whichever date is earlier. This option is available only once to each student during their school career; or
2. The parents/guardians provide a physician's, nurse practitioner's or physician assistant's written statement each year that immunization against one or more diseases may be medically inadvisable (as defined by law/regulation).

[NOTE: With the enactment of L.D 798, "An Act to Protect Maine Children and Students from Preventable Diseases by Repealing Certain Exemption from the Laws Governing Immunization Requirements" in 2019, exemption based on religious or philosophical beliefs was removed effective September 1, 2021. There is one exception: a student covered by an IEP who elected a religious or philosophical exemption prior to September 1, 2021 may continue to attend school under the existing exemption so long as the parent/guardian or the student, if 18 years of age or older, provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that he/she has consulted with the parent/guardian or student and has made the parent/guardian or student aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize.]

The Executive Director shall exclude from school any non-immunized student when there is a clear danger to the health of others as provided by law. The Executive Director is directed to develop such administrative procedures as are necessary to carry out this policy and comply with statutory requirements.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 6352-6359 Chapter 126 (Me. Dept. of Ed Rules)
 Cross Reference: JLCC – Communicable/Infectious Diseases
 JRA – Student Educational Records

Amended and Adopted: June 2, 2011
Edited for administrator title: January 2014
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