Introduction

To keep kids safe and healthy, Maine law requires students in Maine schools to get vaccinated against certain diseases unless they have a medical exemption. This brochure summarizes the vaccine requirements by grade level and shares important information about medical exemptions.

About Us

This information is provided by the Maine Immunization Coalition, which works to protect Maine's children from outbreaks and preventable diseases in schools.

For more info, visit
maineaap.org/resource-areas/the-mic

MAINE IMMUNIZATION COALITION

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Answering FAQs

1. **Naturopaths can't give medical exemptions**.

Under Maine's vaccine laws, only licensed medical providers with an MD, DO, NP, or PA degree can give medical exemptions.

2. **The law applies to public *and* private schools.**

The law applies to all public and private schools in Maine.

3. **The HPV vaccine is not required.**

While HPV is a recommended vaccine to prevent several types of cancers, it's not required by current law. Other recommended but not required vaccines include: Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Haemophulus Influenza B, Rotavirus, Tuberculosis, Influenza, and COVID-19.

4.**Titers can be used to prove immunity.**

If people can't find their immunization records, titers (lab tests) that show immunity or a provider letter documenting a past infection must be given to the school.

5. **Children who have BOTH an IEP, and a religious or philosophical exemption prior to 9/1/2021, are exempt.**

The child will have access to the IEP vaccination exemption until they graduate, age out, withdraw or drop out of school

What Parents Need to Know:

Maine's School Vaccine Requirements

INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Maine's Vaccine Laws

The State of Maine requires that students enrolled in public and private elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools be vaccinated against certain diseases, unless the student receives a medical exemption from a medical provider.

Maine does not allow religious or philosophical exemptions.

What is a Medical Exemption?

Medical exemptions are given to people who provide a written statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that, in their professional judgment, the child has a medical reason to not get vaccinated against one or more diseases.

What do these Requirements do?

These vaccine requirements ensure that children, adolescents, and communities are protected from potentially serious and fatal diseases, such as polio and measles.

Which Vaccines are Required?

PreK Requirements

- 4 DTaP doses (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis)
- 3 Polio doses
- 1 MMR dose (measles, mumps, rubella)
- 1 Varicella dose (chickenpox)

K-12 Requirements

- Kindergarten
  - 4-5 DTap doses (depending on timing of last dose)
  - 4-5 Polio doses (depending on timing of last dose)
  - 2 MMR doses
  - 1 Varicella dose (chickenpox)
- **7th Grade**
  - Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
  - 1 MCV4 (meningitis vaccine)
- **12th Grade**
  - 1-2 MCV4 doses (depending on timing of first dose)

Post-Secondary School Requirements

- MMR (two doses of MMR vaccine, administered after the student's first birthday)
- Diphtheria/Tetanus (within 10 years prior to enrollment).

IEPs & Exemptions

If a student with an IEP had a religious or philosophical exemption on or before Sept 1, 2021, they can keep attending school under that existing exemption **IF:**

- *(For students under 18 years of age)* The parent or guardian provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that they've consulted with the parent or guardian and have made that parent or guardian aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize.

- *(For students 18 years of age or older)* The student provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that they've consulted with that student and have made them aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize.

Should the child be dismissed after September 1, 2021, while holding the IEP vaccination exemption, they will retain access to this exemption until they graduate, age out, withdraw, or drop out of school. However, if the child re-registers for school after dropping out or being withdrawn, they will lose access to the IEP vaccination exemption and must comply with the vaccination law.