

**IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS – 10.11.2**

Public school students entering school for the first time, whether at preschool, kindergarten or through transfer from another school system, will be required to present a physician's certificate attesting to immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, polio, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, varicella and such other communicable diseases as may be specified from time to time by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The law and regulations provide for exclusion of students from school if immunizations are not up to date. The only exception to these requirements will be made on receipt of a written statement from a doctor that immunization would not be in the best interest of the child; or, the student's parent or guardian stating that vaccination or immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs of the student or parent. The only exception for exclusion of unimmunized or partially immunized children without medical or religious exemptions is for homeless children. The McKinney – Vento Homeless Assistance Act stipulates that homeless children cannot be denied entry to school for non possession of immunization records. However, every effort is made by the school nurse to obtain a student's immunization history.

When a case of a vaccine – preventable disease emerges, susceptible individuals (including those with medical or religious exemptions) who are not vaccinated will need to be excluded for the appropriate time periods as outlined in **Reportable Diseases, Surveillance and Isolation & Quarantine Requirements (105 CMR 300.00)**

Established by law.

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Code of Massachusetts Regulations (105CMR 220.000, CMR 220.400, CMR 220.600)