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To: College Health Service Directors  
 From: Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH, Director  
 Immunization Program  
 Date: October 2016  
 Re: 2016-2017 College Immunization Survey

The annual College Immunization Survey is being conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). This survey requests immunization information for college students currently enrolled at your institution. The purpose of this survey is to identify students attending college who are not protected against vaccine-preventable diseases and to ensure that they are properly immunized according to state requirements.

**Immunization Requirements for College Entry in Fall 2016**

The following vaccines are required **for all full-time students and part-time undergraduate and graduate students in a health science program who may be in contact with patients.**

- **2 doses of MMR vaccine:** 2 doses of live measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (these doses must be given at least four weeks apart beginning at or after 12 months of age).
- **2 doses of Varicella vaccine:** 2 doses of live varicella vaccine (these 2 doses must be given at least four weeks apart beginning at or after 12 months of age).
- **1 dose of Tdap vaccine:** A single dose of Tdap if it has been more than five years since the last dose of Td. If it has been less than 5 years since the last dose of Td, Tdap is not required. However, due to increases in pertussis cases nationally and in Massachusetts, Tdap is recommended regardless of interval since the last tetanus-containing vaccine.
- **3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine.**

- **1 dose of quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine** only for newly enrolled full-time residential students (please see below for additional details).
- **Proof of Immunity Satisfies Requirement:** Alternative proofs of immunization have been added to clarify that the requirements of 105 CMR 220.600 shall not apply where:
  - In the case of measles, mumps and rubella, the student presents laboratory evidence of immunity. Those born in the United States before 1957 can be considered immune to measles, mumps and rubella, with the **exception** of all full- and part-time students in a health science program who may be in contact with patients.
  - In the case of varicella, the student presents laboratory evidence of immunity; or a statement signed by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or designee that the student has a reliable history of chickenpox disease; a self-reported history of disease verified by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant; or is born in the United States before 1980, with the exception of all full- and part-time students in a health science program who may be in contact with patients.
  - In the case of hepatitis B, the student presents laboratory evidence of immunity.

### **Meningococcal Disease and Vaccination**

All postsecondary institutions, regardless of whether or not they provide or license housing, must distribute the appropriate MDPH-developed documents based on **student status** (e.g., full time, part time, residential, non-residential).

#### **A. Guidance for Postsecondary Institutions that Provide or License Housing**

- **Full-time residential students.** Newly enrolled full-time **residential** students at postsecondary institutions must receive the document titled *Information about Meningococcal Disease and Vaccination and Waiver for Students at Residential Schools and Colleges* **and** comply with the meningococcal vaccination **requirements** or have a medical or religious exemption or sign the waiver.(105 CMR 220.700).
  - students may now register without a certificate of immunization, provided that proof of the required meningococcal immunization is obtained within 30 days of registration
  - affected students must provide written documentation that they have received 1 dose of meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4) within the last 5 years [or a dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) at any time in the past]
- **Other students.** Newly enrolled **part-time residential students** and **newly enrolled full- and part-time non-residential students** must receive the document titled *Meningococcal Disease and College Students* (105 CMR 221.300).

## **B. Guidance for Postsecondary Institutions that Do Not Provide or License Housing**

- Postsecondary schools that do not provide or license housing are required to disseminate information regarding the risk of meningococcal disease and the availability, effectiveness and risks of meningococcal vaccine. Information approved or provided by MDPH must be provided to a parent/legal guardian or to a student 18 years of age or older. You can download a copy of the MDPH-developed document titled *Meningococcal Disease and College Students* on the MDPH website at [www.mass.gov/dph/imm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/imm) and click on 'School Immunizations.'

### **Recommendations Regarding Meningococcal Vaccination**

While not required, MDPH strongly recommends that anyone up to 21 years of age who is entering college receive a second dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine if their first dose was received before their 16th birthday, particularly if they are new residential students. College students who do not live in campus-related housing and want to reduce their risk for meningococcal disease may also choose to be vaccinated with quadrivalent vaccine, though it is not required.

Adolescents and young adults (16 through 23 years of age) may also be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, preferably at 16 through 18 years of age, to provide short term protection for most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease.

Please see *Summary of Meningococcal Requirements*, (available at [www.mass.gov/dph/imm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/imm) and click on 'School Immunizations'), for a summary of meningococcal vaccination and information requirements by institutional setting and student status.

### **Access to Medical Records**

Since the implementation of the HIPAA Privacy Rule in April of 2003, the MDPH Immunization Program has received numerous questions and requests for clarification from school personnel in regards to obtaining individual student immunization records from physicians' offices. The MDPH Privacy Officer and the Office of the General Counsel have reviewed these requests and concluded that physicians and other licensed providers are permitted under HIPAA, without an individual authorization, to disclose information and records related to a patient's immunization status to a school and its agents, including school nurses, to meet the requirements of M.G.L., c. 76, §15, 105 CMR 220.000, and 603 CMR 18.05.

The Reportable Diseases, Surveillance and Isolation and Quarantine Requirements (105 CMR 300.190 and 191) clarifies a nurse's authority to obtain immunization records or immunization related information required for school admission from health care providers, without the specific authorization of the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), as necessary to carry out school immunization requirements. For more information,

please review the document titled *Immunization Record Disclosure Flyer* (available by visiting [www.mass.gov/dph/imm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/imm) and clicking on ‘School Immunizations’).

*All of these requirements also apply to students visiting from other states and countries.*

If you require assistance or have any questions concerning the survey, please contact the MDPH Immunization Assessment Unit at 617-983-4330.

**Completed surveys should be submitted no later than December 23, 2016.**