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To: College Health Service Directors  
  
From: Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH, Director  
Immunization Division  
  
Re: 2025-2026 College Immunization Survey  
  
Date: September 2025

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The annual public and private **College Immunization Survey** is conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Immunization Division. This survey requests immunization information for college students 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. These data are publicly available on the [Immunization Division website](http://www.mass.gov/dph/imm).

### **School Immunization Requirements**

The following vaccines are required for these students regardless of how much time they spend physically on campus:

- 1) All full-time undergraduate and graduate students under 30 years of age
  - 2) All full-time and part-time health science students (regardless of age)
  - 3) All full-time and part-time students attending a postsecondary institution in Massachusetts while on a student or other visa, including a student attending or visiting classes or programs as part of an academic visitation or exchange program
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine
  - 1 dose of Tdap vaccine (following a complete DTaP series)
  - 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine
  - 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or physician-certified history of chickenpox disease
  - 1 dose of MenACWY vaccine if given on or after the 16th birthday

### **Recommended Vaccines**

The following vaccines are strongly recommended to reduce transmission of communicable disease:

- 1 dose of influenza vaccine for the current influenza season
- 1 dose of updated COVID-19 vaccine
- 2 or 3 doses of HPV vaccine (depending on the age the vaccine series was started)

For additional details, see the MDPH [2025-2026 School Immunization Requirements](#) document.

### **Survey Deadline**

Your efforts in completing this survey contribute to protecting our students from vaccine-preventable diseases. The College Immunization Survey is due by **Friday, January 23, 2026**.

Refer to the [survey worksheets and instructions](#) to help complete the survey accurately. Please retain copies of the survey and worksheets to facilitate follow-up on students not fully immunized. You may be chosen for a randomized audit of immunization records or be called to review your records by MDPH Immunization Division staff. If you have any questions, please email the MDPH Data Assessment Unit at [ImmAssessmentUnit@mass.gov](mailto:ImmAssessmentUnit@mass.gov).

### **Meningococcal Vaccine and Postsecondary Students**

All post-secondary institutions must distribute the appropriate MDPH-developed documents based on student status (e.g., full-time, part-time).

Full-time students 21 years of age and younger. Newly enrolled full-time students 21 years of age and younger at postsecondary institutions must receive the document titled Information about Meningococcal Disease, Meningococcal Vaccines, Vaccination Requirements and the Waiver for Students at Colleges and Residential Schools and comply with the meningococcal vaccination requirements or have a medical or religious exemption or sign the waiver ([105 CMR 220.700](#)).

Newly enrolled part-time students and newly enrolled full-time students 22 years of age and older must receive the document titled Meningococcal Disease and College Students ([105 CMR 221.300](#)).

### **Immunization Survey Results**

In 2024-2025, the immunization records of 262,483 college students from 91 schools were reviewed. Immunization rates by school for schools reporting 30 or more students are available on the [Immunization Division webpage](#). Historical data can be found on our [Immunization Survey Archive](#) page.

### **Immunization Survey of College Students**

School Year	No. of Students	2 MMR	1 Td/Tdap	3 Hep B	Immunity to Chickenpox <sup>1</sup>	Medical Exemption	Religious Exemption
2024-25	262,483	92.8%	91.8%	91.8%	92.4%	0.36%	0.74%
2023-24	247,004	90.7%	88.8%	89.8%	88.2%	0.57%	0.33%
2022-23	236,489	89.6%	89.0%	89.2%	88.7%	0.26%	0.29%
2021-22	183,343	82.5%	82.4%	82.6%	81.9%	0.37%	0.58%
2020-21	149,370	86.9%	85.8%	86.1%	86.1%	0.26%	0.24%

<sup>1</sup>Immunity to chickenpox disease includes children with a documented physician-certified reliable history of chickenpox disease, serologic proof of immunity, or 2 doses of varicella vaccine.

### **Additional Resources and Information**

While the rate of religious exemptions has remained relatively steady in recent years, we encourage schools and programs to review their policies and practices regarding exemptions, including the recommendation to have students renew these annually.

The resources below are available to help improve communication with vaccine-hesitant students and families:

- [\*Personal belief exemptions for vaccination put people at risk. Examine the evidence for yourself\*](#)

Massachusetts school immunization requirements have been very effective in preventing the outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases. Continued enforcement of the immunization requirements is essential to the health of our students.