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To: College Health Service Directors
From: Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH, Director
Immunization Division
Re: 2024-2025 College Immunization Survey
Date: September 2024

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 and also apply to students visiting from other states and countries:

- 1) all full-time undergraduate and graduate students under 30 years of age
 - 2) all full- and part-time health science students (regardless of age)
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine:
 - 2 doses of live measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (these two doses must be given at least four weeks apart beginning at or after 12 months of age).
 - 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine:
 - 2 doses of live varicella vaccine (these two doses must be given at least four weeks apart beginning at or after 12 months of age).
 - 1 dose of Tdap vaccine:
 - Documentation of a dose of Tdap vaccine, received any time at or after 7 years of age.
 - If more than 10 years since the last Tdap was given, a dose of Td or Tdap is recommended.
 - 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine:
 - 3 doses when monovalent hepatitis B vaccine is administered before age 6 weeks or 2 doses of Heplisav-B given on or after 18 years of age.

- 1 dose of MenACWY vaccine:
 - Administered on or after the 16th birthday for newly enrolled full-time students 21 years of age and younger.
 - Adolescents and young adults (16-23 years of age) may also be vaccinated with the MenB vaccine, preferably at 16-18 years of age, to provide short-term protection for serogroup B.
 - Please note that the Meningococcal B vaccine does not fulfill the requirement for the MenACWY vaccine.

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 [2024-2025 School Immunization Requirements](#) document.

Proof of Immunity Satisfies Requirement:

Alternative proofs of immunization have been added to clarify that the requirements shall not apply where:

- The student presents laboratory evidence of immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. 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.
- The student presents laboratory evidence of immunity to varicella; a statement is signed by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or designee that the student has a reliable history of chickenpox disease; or the student was 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.
- The student presents laboratory evidence of immunity to hepatitis B.

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 2023-2024, the immunization records of 247,004 college students from 81 schools were reviewed. Immunization rates by school for schools reporting 30 or more students are available on the [Immunization Division webpage](#).

Results from the Immunization Survey of College Students

School Year	No. of Records Reviewed	2 MMR	Td/Tdap	3 Hep B	Immunity to Chickenpox ¹	Medical Exemption	Religious Exemption
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%

¹Immunity 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.

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.

Your efforts in completing this survey contribute to protecting our students from vaccine-preventable diseases. Please use 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 and staff 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.