**Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine**

**(MenACWY) Requirement for School Entry**

Starting in the 2022-2023 school year, all students entering Grades 7–12 need the meningococcal conjugate vaccine, MenACWY (brand names Menveo or MenQuadfi), for school entry.

**Grade 7–10:** 1 dose; this dose must be given on or after the 11th birthday. Meningococcal conjugate vaccine MenACWY (formerly MCV4) and MenABCWY fulfill this requirement; monovalent meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement.

**Grade 11–12:** 2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) must be given on or after the 16th birthday and ≥ 8 weeks after the previous dose; 1 dose is acceptable if it was given on or after the 16th birthday; meningococcal conjugate vaccine MenACWY (MCV4) and MenABCWY, fulfill this requirement; monovalent meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Why require meningococcal conjugate vaccine?**

MA school requirements generally follow the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). ACIP recommends that children receive a dose of MenACWY at 11-12 years and a booster dose at 16 years.

**What if a student is not 16 at the start of Grade 11?**

Students who are not 16 when they enter Grade 11 will need a booster dose once they turn 16.

**What if my school has ungraded classrooms?**

In ungraded classrooms, Grade 7 requirements apply to all students ≥12 years, and Grade 11 requirements apply to all students ≥16 years.

**Does the meningococcal vaccination waiver apply to the new requirement?**

No. The waiver is for residential students only. However, students are allowed medical or religious exemptions.

**What about meningococcal B Vaccine?**

The meningococcal B vaccine (brand names Bexsero or Trumenba) does not satisfy the MenACWY requirement.

**What about pentavalent meningococcal ABCWY vaccine?**

The pentavalent meningococcal vaccine (MenABCWY, brand name Penbraya) satisfies the MenACWY requirement.

**School Immunization Surveys**

**Will my school have to report on the meningococcal vaccine in my Grade 7 immunization survey?**

Yes. The Grade 7 survey includes a question about meningococcal vaccine for all students.

**I’m at a residential school. Will I still need to complete a separate residential survey in addition to my Grade 7 survey?**

No. The residential school immunization survey is incorporated into the Grade 7 survey.

**When is the immunization survey for high school students administered?**

The immunization survey is administered in grade 12 to assess compliance with immunization requirements for grade 11 and grade 12.

If you have any questions about vaccines or immunization requirements/recommendations, please contact the MDPH Immunization Program at ImmAssessmentUnit@mass.gov. Address questions about enforcement with your legal counsel; enforcement of requirements is at the local level.

Visit the MDPH website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations>