

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 \geq 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 the meningococcal conjugate vaccine?

MA school requirements generally follow the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). AAP recommends that children receive a dose of MenACWY at ages 11-12 and a booster dose at 16.

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 \geq 12 years, and Grade 11 requirements apply to all students \geq 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 the meningococcal B Vaccine?

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

If you have any questions about vaccines or school immunization requirements/recommendations, please contact the MA DPH Immunization Division – Data Assessment Unit at ImmAssessmentUnit@mass.gov. Address questions about the enforcement of school immunization requirements with your legal counsel; enforcement of requirements is at the local level.

Visit the MA DPH School Immunizations page at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations>

What about the 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 the 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 grades 11 and 12.