

New!! Influenza Vaccine Requirement for School Attendance

The Health Services Department wants to make families aware that beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, **Massachusetts Department of Public Health has mandated that influenza vaccine will be required for all students.** Influenza vaccine is always important to receive to reduce the risk of getting sick with influenza, reduce the severity of disease if one does get sick (including the risk of hospitalization) due to influenza, as well as preventing the spread of influenza to others. During the COVID-19 pandemic, influenza vaccine will be especially critical to reduce the overall impact of respiratory illness on the population, protect vulnerable populations from severe illness, and decrease the overall burden on the healthcare system.

Which students need to receive influenza vaccine?

Students in childcare that are 6 months or older, preschool and Kindergarten – Grade 12 will be required to receive influenza vaccine for the current influenza season for school attendance unless they have a [medical or religious exemption](#). Children younger than 9 may require 2 doses. This will be determined by your primary care provider.

When do students need to receive influenza vaccine?

Students must receive influenza vaccine for the current season by December 31, 2020.

Are there any exemptions to receiving influenza vaccine?

[Medical and religious exemptions](#) are allowable in the state of Massachusetts.

What type of influenza vaccine can students receive?

Any age-appropriate licensed influenza vaccine for the current season fulfills the requirement.

If my school will be providing instruction remotely, will students still need to meet immunization requirements?

The school immunization requirements, including the requirement for seasonal influenza vaccine, apply to all Massachusetts students enrolled in daycare, preschool and Kindergarten - Grade 12, regardless of whether the district is providing instruction in-person, or using a hybrid or remote learning model.

Do the flu immunization requirements apply to students that are home schooled?

Immunization requirements, including the flu immunization requirement, do not apply to home schooled students unless the student will ever need to access the school building for sports, after school activities or any other reason.

Please forward a copy of proof of immunization to your school nurse:

Roland Green Pre-School Fax: (508) 261-7415

Debora.Wirth@mansfieldschools.com

Robinson Elementary School Fax: (508) 261-7389

Sue.McGinley@mansfieldschools.com or Tammy.Rozelle@mansfieldschools.com

Jordan/Jackson Elementary School Fax: (508) 261-7522

Kristin.Haskell@mansfieldschools.com or Betsy.Johnston@mansfieldschools.com

Qualters Middle School Fax: (508) 261-7374

Lisa.Anderson@mansfieldschools.com or Elayne.Brown@mansfieldschools.com

Mansfield High School Fax: (508) 261-7416

Christine.Harrison@mansfieldschools.com or Betsy.Savoie@mansfieldschools.com

Please contact your primary care provider with any questions or concerns about immunizations.

Resources: [Flu Vaccine Now Required for all Massachusetts School Students Enrolled in Child Care, Pre-School, K-12, and Post-Secondary Institutions](#)