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WESTON, MA 02493

New Massachusetts Influenza Vaccine School Requirements for Attendance in 2020-21 Kindergarten through Grade 12 influenza vaccine will be required for all students.

Influenza vaccine is an important tool in lowering the risk of getting sick with influenza, to reduce the severity of disease if one does get sick (including the risk of hospitalization), and to prevent the spread 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 the influenza vaccine? **All students in 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.

When do students need to receive the 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.

Will influenza vaccine be required every year or just for the 2020-2021 school year? **Influenza vaccine is now a required vaccine for school attendance and will be required as of December 31 for all students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 each school year.**

What type of influenza vaccine can students receive? Any age-appropriate licensed influenza vaccine for the current season fulfills the requirement. This includes injectable and nasal spray vaccine types.

Do younger students require 2 doses according to Advisory Committee Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines? Children younger than 9 may need two doses of influenza vaccine depending on the number of influenza vaccines they have received in the past. Children should be vaccinated according to ACIP recommendations but only one dose of influenza vaccine is required for school attendance.

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 Kindergarten through Grade 12**, regardless of whether the district is providing instruction in-person, or using a hybrid or remote learning model.

Please send proof of immunization to your school nurse as soon as it is obtained.
You may obtain the vaccination at your doctor's offices, pharmacies, local flu clinics.

There will be a town-wide flu vaccination clinic, date to be determined. Please check the town website for updates: <https://www.weston.org/159/Board-of-Health>

School Vaccination Requirements: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/immunization-requirements-for-school-entry-0/download>

Flu Info for Parents:

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/12/nc/the-flu-guide-for-parents.pdf>