

Immunization of Students

All students who enroll in RSU 40 schools are required by Maine law to present a certificate of immunization or evidence of immunization or immunity against poliomyelitis; diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus; measles, mumps, rubella; and varicella (chicken pox). Students entering grades seven and 12 must also receive the quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4).

A student who is enrolled in a distance education program offered by a school and who does not physically attend any classes or programs at a school facility, including a campus, center or site of that school, or other facility of another school, are exempt from these requirements.

Non-immunized students will not be permitted to enroll in school, or to attend school or school activities, unless one of the following conditions is met:

- A. The parents/guardians provide to the school written assurance that the child will be immunized within 90 days of enrolling in school or the student's first attendance in classes, whichever date is earlier. This option is available only once to each student during their school career; or
- B. The parents/guardians provide a written statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant each year that, in that individual's professional judgment, immunization against one or more diseases may be medically inadvisable; or
- C. A student covered by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) on September 1, 2021, who had an exemption based on their sincere religious belief or for philosophical reasons on or prior to September 1, 2021 pursuant to the law in effect prior to that date may continue to attend school under that student's existing exemption as long as:
 1. The parents/guardians of the student provide a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that they have consulted with the parents/guardians and has made the parents/guardians aware of the risks and benefits associated with immunization; or
 2. If the student is 18 years of age or older, the student provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that they

have consulted with that student and has made that student aware of the risks and benefits associated with immunization.

- D. The parents/guardians grant written consent for the student to be immunized by a public health officer, physician, nurse or other authorized person in their employ, or acting as an agent of the school unit.

Exclusion of Students from School

The Superintendent must exclude from school any non-immunized student when ~~there is a~~ public health official has reason to believe that the student's continued presence in school presents a clear danger to the health of others. Any such student will be excluded during the period of danger (as defined by health officials) or until the student receives the necessary immunization.

The Superintendent may also exclude from school: 1) a student who presents a public health threat in accordance with applicable laws, or 2) a student who has been exposed to a communicable disease, upon the direction of a physician who has consulted with the Bureau of Health.

Arrangements may be made for students who are excluded from school to receive and complete school assignments if possible, and to make up missed examinations and other work within a reasonable time upon their return to school.

The Superintendent/designee is directed to develop such administrative procedures as are necessary to carry out this policy and comply with statutory requirements.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S. §§6352-6359
Maine Department of Education Rule Chapter 126

Cross Reference: JLCC – Communicable/Infectious Diseases

This is a required policy.

Adopted: March 3, 2016

Revised: June 7, 2018
Revised: August 19, 2021