

## IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Prior to enrollment, all students in Cape Elizabeth 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; varicella (chicken pox); and meningitis. **to present a certificate of immunization or evidence of immunization or immunity to the communicable diseases referenced in Maine law, [Chapter 26: Immunization Requirements for School Age Children](#).**

Non-immunized student shall not be permitted to attend school except as follows:

1. **Written Assurance.** The parent provides to the school a written assurance that the student will be immunized within 90 days of enrolling in school or first attendance in school classes, whichever date is the earliest. This is a one-time exception.
2. **Medical Exemption.** Written documentation from the primary care provider (a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant) that the immunization against one or more of the diseases may be medically inadvisable. This must be provided annually prior to the first day of school.
3. ~~The parent states in writing an opposition to immunization because of a sincere religious belief or for philosophical reasons. This must be provided annually prior to the first day of school.~~
4. **Student covered by individualized education plan.** A student covered by an individualized education plan on September 1, 2021 who elected a philosophical or religious exemption from immunization requirements on or before 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:
  - a. The parent or guardian of the student provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that the physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant has consulted with that parent or guardian and has made that parent or guardian aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize; or
  - b. 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 the physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant has consulted with that student and has made that student aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize.

A period of 21 calendar days may be granted to allow for the transfer of health records from one school to another.

## EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

The Superintendent shall exclude from school any non-immunized student when 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 shall 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 shall 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 MRSA §§ 6301; 6352-6359  
**Title 20-A §6355. Enrollment in school**  
Ch. 126 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules) Maine School Health Manual  
10-144 Dept. of Human Services  
Ch. 261 Immunization Requirement for School Children

Cross Reference:                   ~~JLCB-E-Yearly Immunization Exemption Form~~  
**Maine AAP Request for Medical Exemption Form**  
**Immunization Exemption IEP Form**  
**DOE Immunizations Website**

Adopted:                           October 9, 1984  
Revised:                           March 14, 1995  
  January 13, 2009  
  June 9, 2010 (Replaces originally named, School Immunization  
  Policy) September 11, 2018