

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Prior to enrollment, students must present a certificate of immunization or other acceptable evidence of immunity for each disease as required by rule for school enrollment. (DOE Chapter 126)

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

- 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.
- Written documentation from the primary care provider that the immunization against one or more of the diseases may be medically inadvisable. This must be provided annually.
- The parent states in writing an opposition to immunization because of a sincere religious belief or for philosophical reasons. This must be provided annually.
- A period of 21 calendar days may be granted to allow for the transfer of health records from one school to another.

When a homeless student does not have needed certificates of immunization, a referral will be made to the school's homeless coordinator. (McKinney Act)

All students who are not immunized due to medical, religious or philosophical reasons shall be excluded from school during an outbreak of the vaccine-preventable disease for which the student is not immunized. The exclusion will be ~~from~~ for the danger period as defined by rule. (DOE Chapter 126)

The Immunization Report will be submitted to the Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health by ~~December 15th~~ as required by law each school year.

Cross Reference: JLCB-E - Yearly Immunization Exemption Form

ADOPTED: October 9, 1984
REVISED: March 14, 1995
REVISED: January 13, 2009

IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS

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All students who enroll in the _____ school unit 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).

Non-immunized students shall 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 his/her 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 physician's written statement each year that immunization against one or more diseases may be medically inadvisable (as defined by law/regulation); or
- C. The parents/guardians state in writing each year that immunization is contrary to their sincere religious belief or for philosophical reasons.

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. **[Note: The rules only require educational arrangements to be made after 10 days' absence, but in our view, it makes sense to treat these absences like any other and allow students to complete and make up work.]**

IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS

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
Chapter 126 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Cross Reference: JLCC – Communicable/Infectious Diseases

CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

YEARLY IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTION FORM

As a parent/guardian of _____
(Student Name)

Grade _____ and date of birth _____, I am requesting a waiver for the following
Immunizations:

All required immunizations: ___ DTAP ___ I/OPV ___ MMR ___ Varicella ___

I understand that in the case of an outbreak of the specific disease, for which my child is not protected, my child will be kept out of school and school activities. The length of time my child will be kept out of school may vary from a week to over a month depending on the disease and length of the outbreak. I also understand that if my child is kept out of school, the school is not required to provide off-site classes or tutoring. The school may make reasonable accommodations to assist my child in keeping up with school work.

I am requesting a waiver for: Sincere Religious Belief ___
Philosophical Reason ___

My explanation is as follows: _____

Signed by: _____

Relationship to Student: _____ Date: _____

Medical Exemption:

Physician statement as to reason for medical exemption to immunization:

Physician Signature

Date

SHARING MEDICAL INFORMATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME

By law and to protect the health and safety of students, it is important that certain medical information about students be shared between home and school. The purpose of this policy is to prescribe the process and circumstances for information sharing.

I. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, a “Physical Examination” is a health assessment conducted by a “Qualified Health Care Provider” (M.D., D.O., Nurse Practitioner, or Physician’s Assistant) following professionally accepted standards of practice. The purpose of the physical examination is to assess health, identify health conditions amenable to early intervention, and to provide treatment to correct or ameliorate health problems found.

II. School Provided Examinations

Cape Elizabeth nursing staffs conduct medical screenings required by Maine law.

III. Student Health Questionnaire

A Health Questionnaire completed by parents is required for all students each year by the beginning of school. In order to allow time for review of the Health Questionnaire by the school nurse, students participating in a fall sport must have this Questionnaire submitted no later than two weeks before the start of preseason. Students will not be permitted to begin their sports season until the Health Questionnaire has been reviewed by the school nurse.

IV. Changes in Condition and Injuries

Students who have major injuries or a significant change in health status, as determined by the school nurse, will require clearance, in writing, from a Qualified Health Care Provider prior to resuming participation in physical education or athletic competition. For purpose of this provision “major injuries” or a “significant change in health status,” includes but is not limited to any medical condition requiring surgery, any concussions (see Policy JJIAA), or any new diagnosis of asthma, allergies, or diabetes.

V. Required Physical Examinations for All Students in Grades 7, 9 and 11 Participating in Middle School and High School Sports

- A. *Requirement.* In order to be eligible to participate in a school sports program, all students entering grades 7, 9 and 11 are required to have a physical Examination conducted within the same calendar year before the student’s start of that grade. A Student Physical Examination Record form must be submitted to the school nurse documenting that Physical Examination. This Physical Examination Record is in addition to the Health Questionnaire required of all students.

SHARING MEDICAL INFORMATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME

- B. *Submission Deadline.* In order to allow time for review of the Physical Examination Record, the Record must be submitted no later than two weeks before the start of preseason. Students will not be permitted to begin their sports season until the Physical Examination Record has been reviewed by the school nurse.

VI. Sharing of Information with School Staff

The results of the Health Questionnaire and Physical Examination will be entered on each student's school health record. The school nurse may share information from the record with school personnel who have a legitimate interest related to the student's education, health, or safety, including teachers, coaches, activity advisor, trainers, and bus drivers.

Cross References: JJIAA-Student Sports-Concussions and Head Injuries

ADOPTED: March 14, 1995
RECODED: June 1998
REVISED: June 9, 2009
REVISED: June 8, 2010 (Replaces originally named, Physical Exams of C.E. Students)
June 14, 2011

Communicable/Infectious Disease

Teachers and other school staff will be provided with annual education regarding:

- Handling of bodily fluids;
- Signs and symptoms of communicable diseases.

Students with a diagnosed communicable disease or with symptoms of a communicable disease will be temporarily excused from school. The parent/guardian or emergency contact will be notified and asked to take the student from school. While the student is waiting at school, the student will be isolated from other students.

~~The school administration may communicate with parents and/or exclude any student who poses a public health threat [MRSA 20-A § 6301(2)].~~

The school will notify the Maine Bureau of Health of any reportable disease. [MRSA 20-A § 6301(5-A)] The list of reportable communicable diseases can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/disease-reporting/index.shtml> <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/disease-reporting.htm>.

~~The school administration may communicate with parents and/or exclude any student who poses a public health threat [MRSA 20-A § 6301(2)] as advised by the [Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention \(Maine CDC\)](#).~~

Students returning to school after a ~~diagnosed communicable disease~~ should be symptom free for 24 hours unless the primary care provider provides written documentation approving school attendance before symptoms have abated. [Return to school after a diagnosed communicable disease is contingent upon written documentation from the primary care provider or protocols from the Maine CDC that the student is eligible to return to school](#)

Legal Reference: [MRSA 20-A §6301 \(2\) & \(5-A\)](#)
[22 M.R.S.A., Chapter 250, §820 and §822](#)

ADOPTED: March 14, 1995

RECODED: June 1998

REVISED and APPROVED: December 2, 2008