

Vaccines are a safe and inexpensive way to provide long lasting protection against certain diseases which may cause permanent mental or physical damage to your child.

Maine State Law requires that all school children in Kindergarten through grade 12 be protected against Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough), Tetanus (lock jaw), Polio, Measles, Rubella (German measles), Mumps, and Varicella **Upon registering** for school, all children must present an immunization **record signed by a physician, nurse or other person who administered the vaccine**, unless the child is exempted (see exemptions below). The record must show the complete date (month, day, year) and type of vaccine given.

Immunization Requirements

The following represents MINIMAL requirements only. Parents are urged to consult with their family physician or public health agency regarding additional doses and types of vaccines that are recommended.

Current Maine State Law for children attending public schools requires:

- 5 Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis doses (4 doses if dose 4 was given on or after 4th birthday)
- **Tdap booster required on entry to 7th grade**
- **Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4), required on entry to 7th grade, (given on/after 11th birthday), and 12th grade, (given on/after 16th birthday).**
- 4 Polio doses (3 doses if dose 3 is given on or after 4th birthday)
- 2 Measles, Mumps, Rubella doses (dose 1 must be on or after first birthday)
- 1 Varicella (Chickenpox) dose, (K-12), or a health record from your Primary Care Provider showing proof of chickenpox disease, or a blood test showing immunity to chickenpox.

Immunization dates or an **annual** exemption letter for medical or philosophical reasons must be on file as follows:

Kindergarten - current record upon registration

Transfer students - current record upon registration

Additionally, the current recommendation from the Center for Disease Control includes:

HPV vaccine

Hepatitis B series (if not already done), and Hepatitis A

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL NAME _____ GRADE _____

Exemptions and Exclusion from School

A small number of children will not be able to receive immunizations, usually for medical or philosophical reasons.

School children exempted from immunization will be excluded from school if one of the diseases for which immunization is required is identified in the community. Children excluded from school will be prohibited from attending school until either the child has been immunized, the disease or outbreak has passed, or the youngster contracts the disease and completely recovers.

Parents seeking an exemption to the immunization requirements for their child for medical reasons must have the medical section **completed by the child's physician**.

MEDICAL EXEMPTION (physician to complete A or B, date and sign)

A. The following immunizations are harmful to this child's health _____

against the disease named is not necessary_____

DATE_____

PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE_____

Parents or Guardians seeking exemption for **philosophical** reasons must provide a **written statement** below:
I philosophically object to immunization for my child,_____ because...

DATE_____SIGNATURE_____

All exemptions must be submitted annually to the school nurse.