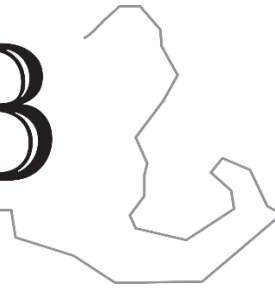


MAHIB

Assisting Massachusetts Boards of Health through training, technical assistance and legal education



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH BOARDS

New Influenza Vaccination Requirements due to COVID-19

All children 6 months of age or older who attend Massachusetts childcare, pre-school, K-12, and colleges and universities must receive the flu vaccine on or before December 31, 2020. This includes:

- K-12 students participating in remote education models;
- Students in private, parochial and charter schools;
- Full-time undergraduate and graduate students under the age of 30.

Schools are responsible for compliance with all vaccination requirements.

Exemptions:

1. Home-schooled children. The schooling must be completely separate (unsanctioned) by any school system. Remote participation in a K-12 program is not home-schooling and is not exempt.
2. Completely online higher education students who do not participate in any on-campus activities or programs at all.
3. Children/Students with a physician-certified medical exemption. Health of child/student would be endangered by the vaccination. (G.L. c. 76, §15). Physician-certification is reviewable by school health program physician, who may refer the case to DPH for final determination.
4. If parent/guardian states in writing that it conflicts with his/her religious beliefs. However, this exemption is not applicable during a declared emergency or pandemic. (G.L. c. 76, §15).
5. If child/student is "immune" as defined by DPH guidelines.

Statutory/Regulatory Authority:

- G.L. c. 76, §15;
- 105 CMR 220.300 to 220.600
- CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>

This information is provided for educational purposes only and is not to be construed as legal advice. For legal advice, please contact your city or town attorney. (11.3.2020)