

FLU SHOT NOW REQUIRED FOR ALL MASSACHUSETTS STUDENTS



Mandatory Flu Vaccine

[Mass General Law Part 1 Title XII Chapter 76 Section 17](#) states that a student must present a physician's certificate of up to date immunizations for school admittance. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has added a new requirement this year for students to have the seasonal flu vaccine.

What is required

"1 dose; seasonal influenza vaccine for the current flu season (July-June) must be received annually by December 31st. New students entering between January 1st and March 31st must have received a dose of vaccine for the current flu season for entry."

"Depending on the child's flu vaccination history, ACIP may recommend a second dose of flu vaccine in the same season. In these cases, the second dose is recommended but is not required for school entry."

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/immunization-requirements-for-school-entry-0/download>



FAQ's

Q: Who needs to get the flu vaccine?

A: All students in grades pre-K through 12 are required to get the flu vaccine.

Q: When do students need to receive the vaccine by?

A: Students must receive the vaccine by Dec. 31, 2020.

Q: Are there any exemptions?

A: Massachusetts allows for medical and religious exemptions. Please speak with your physician or school nurse.

Q: Is this a yearly requirement or just for 2020/21?

A: Influenza vaccine is now a required vaccination and must be given yearly by December 31.

Q: If my student is a remote learner, does s/he still have to get the flu vaccine?

A: Per MDPH, "the school immunization requirements, including the requirement for seasonal influenza vaccine, apply to all Massachusetts students enrolled in pre-K through grade 12, regardless of whether the district is providing instruction in person, or using a hybrid or remote learning model."

Q: If s/he is homeschooled, is it required for my child to get the flu vaccine?

A: Immunization requirements do not apply to homeschooled children unless they will access the schools for sports, extra-curricular activities or any other reason.

Q: Where do I send my proof of immunization?

A: Please email or send in a copy of proof of immunization to your child's school nurse.