

Regional School Unit 73 Board of Directors	CODE: JLCB Page: 1
SUBJECT: IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS	
Date of Original Policy: September 10, 1973 Date of Next Review: Cancels Policy Code: None Revision Date: May 27, 2021	
JURISDICTION:	RSU 73 Schools

POLICY: IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS

All students who enroll in the RSU 73 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, and varicella (chicken pox).

One dose of Tetanus / Diphtheria / Pertussis (Tdap) is required for students entering 7th grade.

Immunization against meningococcal disease is required as follows:

- a. One dose of meningococcal vaccine MCV4 is required for students entering 7th grade.
- b. Students entering 12th grade are required to have received two doses of MCV4. The first dose shall have been received on or after the eleventh birthday, and the second dose shall have been received on or after the sixteenth birthday, at least eight weeks after the first dose. Only one dose is required if the first dose is administered when the student is sixteen years of age or older.

Non-immunized students shall not be permitted to attend school unless one of the following conditions are met:

- a. The student's parent or guardian provides the school written assurance that the child will be immunized within 90 days of enrolling in school or their first attendance in classes, whichever date is earlier. The option is available only once to each student during their school career; or
- b. The parent or guardian provides a written statement each year from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that, in their professional judgment, immunization against one or more of the diseases may be medically inadvisable (as defined by law / regulation); or
- c. The parents or guardians state in writing each year that immunization is contrary to their sincere religious or philosophical beliefs. This exemption will no longer be available effective September 1, 2021.

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NOTE: _____ With the enactment of L.D. 798, “An Act to Protect Maine Children and Students from Preventable Diseases by Repealing Certain Exemption from the Laws Governing Immunization Requirements” in 2019, exemption based on religious or philosophical beliefs is no longer available effective September 1, 2021. There is one exception: a student covered by an IEP who elected a religious or philosophical exemption prior to September 1, 2021 may continue to attend school under the existing exemption so long as the parent / guardian or the student, if 18 years of age or older, provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that they have consulted with the parent or guardian or student and has made the parent or guardian or student aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize.

The Superintendent shall exclude from school any non-immunized student when there is a clear danger to the health of others as provided by law.

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 §§ 6352-6359
Maine Department of Education Rule Ch. 126 (May 10, 2018)

Cross Reference: JLCC - Communicable / Infectious Diseases
JRA - Student Educational Records

Adopted: September 10, 1973
Revised: 8/18/1975, 8/29/1977, 9/11/1978, 8/18/1981,
7/25/1983, 8/20/1986, 8/19/1987, 1/14/1993, 12/4/1997, 9/2/2010; 5/27/2021