

New Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MenACWY) Requirement for School Entry

Starting in the 2020-21 school year, all students entering Grades 7 and 11 will need meningococcal conjugate vaccine, MenACWY (brand names *Menveo* or *Menactra*) for school entry.

Grade 7 entry: 1 dose of MenACWY for all students.

Grade 11 entry: 1 booster dose of MenACWY received on or after 16 years of age. (1 or more doses of MenACWY are acceptable as long as 1 dose was received on or after 16 years of age.)

Frequently Asked Questions

Why require meningococcal conjugate vaccine?

MA school requirements generally follow the recommendations of the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). ACIP recommends that children receive a dose of MenACWY at 11-12 years and a booster dose at 16 years.

What if a student is not 16 at the start of Grade 11?

Students who are not 16 when they enter Grade 11 will need a booster dose once they turn 16.

What if my school has ungraded classrooms?

In ungraded classrooms, Grade 7 requirements apply to all students ≥ 12 years and Grade 11 requirements apply to all students ≥ 16 years.

Does the meningococcal vaccination waiver apply to the new requirement?

No. The waiver is for residential students only; however, students are allowed medical or religious exemptions.

What about Meningococcal B Vaccine?

Men B vaccine (brand names *Bexsero* or *Trumenba*) does not satisfy the MenACWY requirement.

School Immunization Surveys

Will my school have to report on meningococcal vaccine in my Grade 7 immunization survey?

Yes. The Grade 7 survey will be updated for Fall 2020 to include a question about meningococcal vaccine for all students.

I'm at a residential school. Will I still need to complete a separate residential survey in addition to my Grade 7 survey?

No. The residential school immunization survey will be incorporated into the Grade 7 survey.

Will there be a Grade 11 immunization survey?

Yes. Similar to the Kindergarten and Grade 7 surveys, a Grade 11 survey will be accessible in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) beginning in the 2020-21 school year. We anticipate the Grade 11 survey will open in January 2021 with a deadline for completion in March 2021.

Contact the Immunization Division at (617) 983-6800

Visit the MDPH website at

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations>