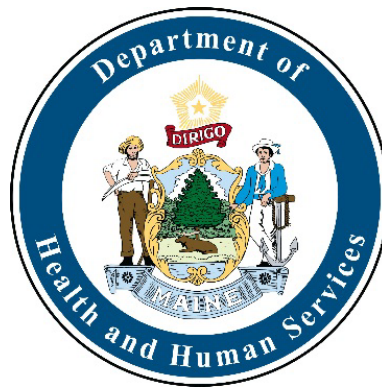


Maine Immunization Program Back-to-School Webinar 2026 – 2027

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Objectives

Understand the school entry requirements for the state of Maine for the following:

- Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- 7th Grade
- 12th Grade

Understand acceptable certificates of immunization and evidence of immunity

Understand the enrollment or attendance without certificate of immunization or proof of immunity

Understand the additional recommended vaccines for back-to-school

- HPV recommendations
- Men B recommendations
- Flu and Covid-19

Resources



State of Maine Immunization Requirements for School Children

On May 25, 2026, an updated version of the school immunization requirements was published to include each immunizations vaccine schedule, number of required doses and intervals between doses.



STATE OF MAINE

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN



10-144 CODE OF MAINE RULES CHAPTER 261

**Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention**

AND

05-071 CODE OF MAINE RULES CHAPTER 126

Department of Education

Last Amended: May 25, 2026

Certificate of Immunization

Certificate of Immunization

1. To demonstrate adequate immunization against each disease, a child must present the school with a certificate of immunization from a physician, nurse, nurse practitioner, physician associate, public health official or other individual authorized to administer vaccines who has administered the immunizing agent(s) to a child.
2. The certificate of immunization must demonstrate that the required doses were administered in accordance with Section 5 of the school rule and indicate the month, day and year in which they were administered.



Required For Pre-K Entry

Four doses of DPT/DTaP

1. Minimum age for a student to receive first dose is 6 weeks old.
 - i. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
 - ii. Dose two and dose three must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
 - iii. Dose three and dose four must be separated by at least 6 months.



One dose of MMR

1. Minimum age for each student for first dose is 1 year old.

Three doses of IPV/tOPV

1. Minimum age of each student for first dose is 6 weeks.
 - i. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
 - ii. Dose two and dose three must be separated by at least 4 weeks.



One dose of varicella vaccine

1. Minimum age for students to receive first dose is 1 year old.

Required For Kindergarten

Five doses of DTaP-at six years old or younger:

1. Minimum age for a student to receive first dose is 6 weeks old.
 - i. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
 - ii. Dose two and dose three must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
 - iii. Dose three and dose four must be separated by at least 6 months.
 - iv. Dose four and dose five must be separated by at least 6 months.
 - v. Fifth dose is not required, if the fourth dose was administered on or after the fourth birthday and at least six months after dose three



Two doses of MMR

1. Minimum age of each student for first dose is 1 year old.
2. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
3. If MMRV is administered as an alternative combination immunization agent, the minimum interval between MMRV doses is at least 3 months.

Four doses of IPV/tOPV

1. Minimum age of each student for first dose is 6 weeks old.
2. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
3. Dose two and dose three must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
4. Dose three and dose four must be separated by at least 6 months.
5. Fourth dose is not required, if the student receives the third dose on or after the fourth birthday and at least 6 months from the previous dose.

Two doses of varicella

1. Minimum age of student for first dose is 1 year old.
2. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 3 months if younger than 13 years old. If the student received the combined Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella (MMRV) vaccine, then the minimum interval between MMRV doses is at least 3 months.

7th Grade Entry Requirements

One dose of Tdap (in addition to DTP/DTaP primary series)

1. Minimum age for each student to receive Tdap is 7 years old.

Four doses of IPV/tOPV

1. Minimum age of each student for first dose is 6 weeks old.
 - i. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
 - ii. Dose two and dose three must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
 - iii. Dose three and dose four must be separated by at least 6 months.
 - iv. Fourth dose is not required, if the student receives the third dose on or after the fourth birthday and at least 6 months from previous dose.

Two doses of Varicella

1. Minimum age of student for first dose is 1 year old.
 - i. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 3 months if younger than 13 years old **or** separated by at least 4 weeks if the student is 13 years old or older.
 - ii. If the student received the combined Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella (MMRV) vaccine, then the minimum interval between MMRV doses is at least 3 months.

Two doses MMR

1. Minimum age of each student for first dose is 1 year old.
 - i. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
 - ii. If MMRV is administered as an alternative combination immunization agent, the minimum interval between MMRV doses is at least 3 months.

One dose MenACWY

1. Minimum age for a student to receive first dose is 10 years old.



12th Grade Entry Requirements

All previous DTaP/Tdap, IPV, MMR, Varicella doses

Two doses of MenACWY

1. Minimum age for each student to receive the first dose is 10 years old.
 2. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 8 weeks.
- ❖ If the first dose of MenACWY is administered to the student at **sixteen years old or older**, only **one dose** is required.



Additional Vaccine Requirement Info

- **Regarding Live Vaccines (MMR, Varicella, FluMist (LAIV), Yellow Fever):** If two live virus are not administered on the same day, they must be separated by at least 28 days. No allowance for a shorter separation than this 28-day interval is permitted
- If the Poliomyelitis series contains oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV), only trivalent OPV (tOPV) vaccine is considered as compliant with the Poliomyelitis vaccination requirements of this rule.
- If a vaccine is administered up to four days before the minimum required age or interval for administration of the vaccine, the immunization dosage is adequate (unless live vaccine).
- For students who did not complete their primary DTP/DTaP series: a single dose of Tdap is required, followed by either Tdap or Td, until the student is administered three doses.
 1. Minimum age for each student to receive Tdap is 7 years old.
 - i. Dose one and dose two must be separated by at least 4 weeks.
 - i. Dose two and dose three must be separated by at least 6 months.



Laboratory Evidence of Immunity (Titers) or History of Immunity

Laboratory Evidence of Immunity (Titers)

- Using laboratory evidence to demonstrate immunity is only permitted when a child has received all required doses but is unable to provide the certificate of immunization.
- In the ABSENCE of a certificate of immunity the child must present the school with a laboratory report of a titer indicating immunity to reach disease for which immunization is required.

History of Immunity

- For varicella disease only, the child may present the school with reliable documented history of immunity provided by a physician or other primary care provider that the child had varicella disease.



Enrollment or Attendance Without Certificate of Immunization or Proof of Immunity

A child who does not provide a certificate of immunization or proof of immunity against a disease listed in the school rule is not permitted to enroll in or attend school unless one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- **Written Assurance from Parent of Private Effort to Immunize Child:**
 - The parent provides the school with a written assurance that the child will be immunized by private effort within 90 days of enrollment or of the child first attending, whichever date is the earliest.
 - The granting of this 90-day period is a one-time provision. If, after 90 days have passed, the parent fails to provide the required certificate of immunization or proof of immunity against each of the diseases listed in this rule
- **Written Consent to Immunize Child:**
 - The parent grants written consent for the child's immunization by a public health officer, physician, nurse or other authorized person in their employ, or acting as an agent of the school, where such immunization programs are in effect.



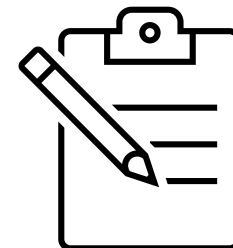
Enrollment or Attendance Without Certificate of Immunization or Proof of Immunity (cont.)

- **Medical Exemption:**

- An exemption from an immunization requirement based on a form signed by a licensed physician stating that the vaccine administered would endanger the life or health of the child.

- **Individualized Education Plan (IEP):**

- A student covered by an individualized education plan on September 1, 2021, who elected a philosophical or religious exemption from immunization requirements on or before September 1, 2021, pursuant to the law in effect prior to that date, may continue to attend school under that student's existing exemption as long as:
 - The parent or guardian of the student provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that the physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant has consulted with that parent or guardian and has made that parent or guardian aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize;
 - If the student is 18 years of age or older, the student provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that the physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant has consulted with that student and has made that student aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize



Routine Recommended Vaccines for Back-to-School

In addition to the required school vaccines, there are two others that are recommended for adolescents and teenagers:

➤ **Human Papillomavirus (HPV):**

The HPV vaccine protects against human papillomavirus, which can cause cervical cancer in women as well as several other types of cancer in both men and women. Two doses are recommended starting at age 9.



➤ **Meningococcal (Men B):**

Protects against a 5th strain of meningococcal disease, which isn't covered by the MCV4 vaccine (MenACWY). It is recommended at age 16, with a second dose 6 months later

➤ **Seasonal Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccines:**

All individuals six months and older are recommended to receive the updated seasonal flu vaccine and latest COVID-19 vaccine to protect against serious illness.



HPV Vaccine Recommendations

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) can cause cancers of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in women; penis in men and anus in both men and women. It can also cause cancer in the back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils (oropharynx), in both men and women.

The HPV vaccine series is most effective when given before a person is exposed to the virus. Research has shown that HPV vaccination provides over 90% protection against infections, precancers, and cancers caused by the types of HPV included in the vaccine.



[HPV Vaccine Recommendations - National HPV Vaccination Roundtable](#)

HPV VACCINE SCHEDULE & DOSES

Don't wait to vaccinate. The American Cancer Society recommends that boys and girls get the HPV vaccine starting at age 9. Age matters. When you vaccinate your child on time, you give them the best protection from HPV cancers. In fact, HPV cancer prevention decreases the longer you wait to vaccinate.



ON TIME

AGE 9-12

2 Doses

6-12 months apart

Begin at age 9 years old for a better immune response.



LATE

AGES 13-14

2 Doses

6-12 months apart



CRITICAL

AGES 15-26

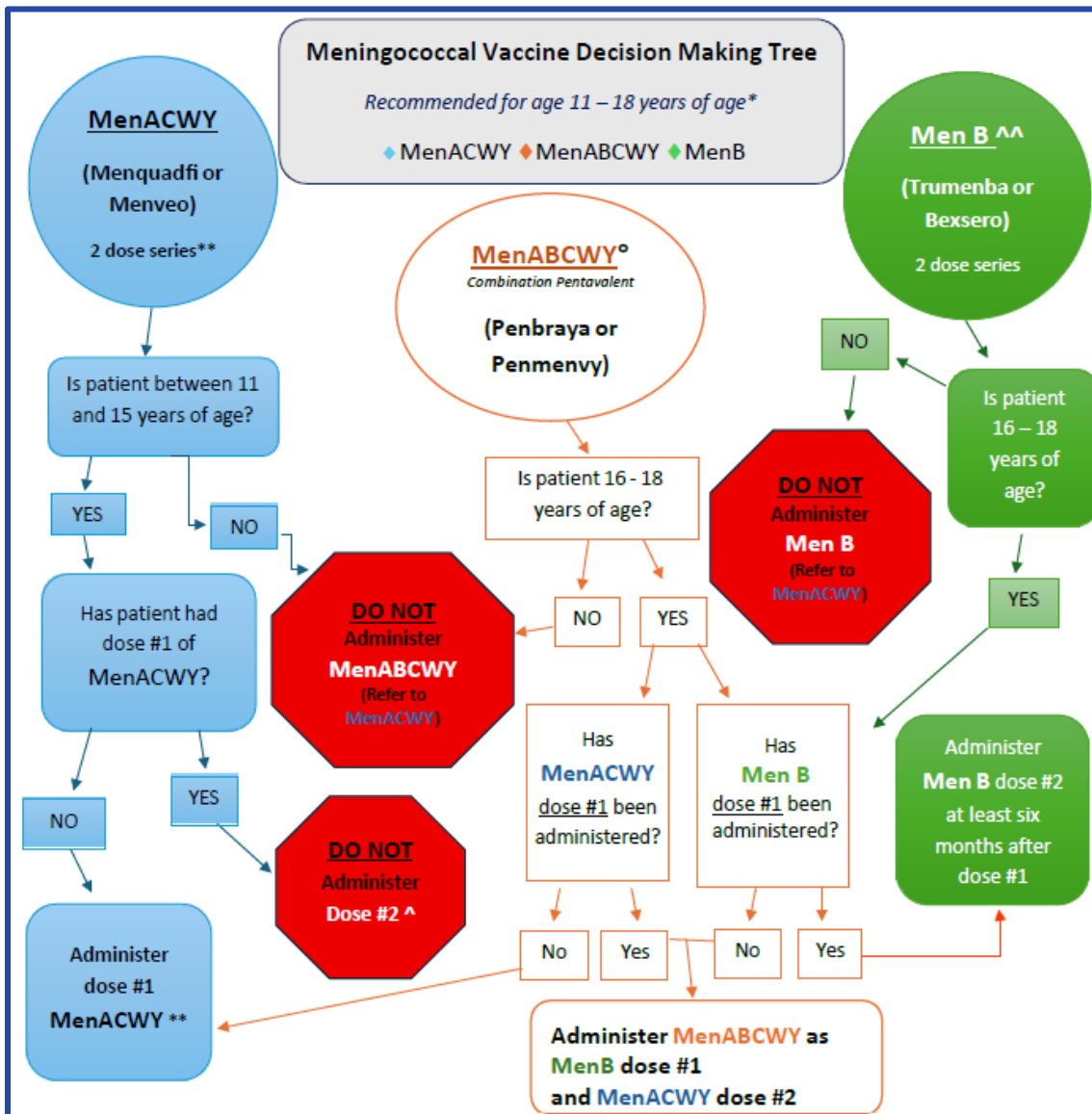
3 Doses

1st dose at visit one

2nd dose 1-2 months later

3rd dose 6 months after 1st dose

Meningococcal B Recommendations



For healthy individuals aged 16-23 years, a 2-dose series of MenB vaccine (Bexsero or Trumenba) may be administered based on shared clinical decision-making.

- Bexsero and Trumenba are not interchangeable.
- If the brand used for the primary series is unknown or unavailable, a new primary series should be started with the available brand.

The recommended age for MenB vaccination is 16-18 years.

Combination MenABCWY Vaccine:
16 YRS and Older

- **Penbraya dose 1** - give Trumenba for dose #2.
- **Penmenvy dose 1** - give Bexsero for dose #2

Maine School Vaccine Requirements Reference Guide

Maine Immunization Requirements for School Children

Simplified Resource Table- minimum dose counts only for vaccines administered to children enrolling in or attending school

Vaccine	Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K)	Kindergarten – 6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade – 12 th Grade
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP/DTP/Td)	4 doses	5 doses	All previously required primary DTaP/DTP series	
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)	All previously required primary DTaP/DTP series		1 dose (Required for 7 th grade entry)	All previously required DTaP/DTP/Tdap vaccines
Polio (IPV/OPV)	3 doses	4 doses		
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	1 dose	2 doses		
Varicella (Chickenpox)	1 dose	2 doses		
Meningococcal (MenACWY)	Not indicated for age		1 dose (Required for 7 th grade entry)	2 doses

The following standards apply when determining dosage adequacy:

- If an immunizing agent is administered up to four days before the minimum required age or interval for administration of the vaccine, the immunization dosage is adequate.
 - Two or more different live virus vaccines (i.e., MMR, Varicella, Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV), and/or yellow fever) administered on different days must be separated by at least 28 days. No allowance for a shorter separation than this 28-day interval is permitted.
 - A combination immunization agent is adequate to meet the requirement for immunization against a disease if:
 - The combination immunization agent increases immunity against the disease; and
 - The dose of each immunization agent within the combination meets the age and interval requirements set forth in this Section.
- ❖ Doses administered must read with the Notes that follow: To determine minimum intervals between doses; see Table 2

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Maine Immunization Requirements for School Children

Detailed Requirements Table- minimum requirements for vaccines administered to children enrolling in or attending school

Vaccine	Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K)	Kindergarten – 6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade – 12 th Grade
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP/DTP/Td)	The minimum age for each student to receive the first dose of DTaP/DTaP is 6 weeks old; a. The first, second, and third dose must be separated by at least 4 weeks. b. The fourth dose must be separated by at least 6 months from third dose	The minimum age for each student to receive the first dose of DTaP/DTaP is 6 weeks old; a. The first, second, and third dose must be separated by at least 4 weeks. b. The fourth and fifth dose must be separated by at least 6 months from last dose. c. The fifth dose is not required if fourth dose was received at age 4 or older and at least 6 months after third dose	For students who have not completed their primary DTP/DTaP series a single dose of Tdap is required, followed by either Tdap or Td until the student is administered three doses: a. The minimum age for each student to receive Tdap is 7 years old. b. The first and second doses of Tdap must be separated by at least 4 weeks; and c. The second and third doses of Tdap must be separated by at least 6 months	
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)	All previously required primary DTaP/DTP series		The minimum age for each student to receive Tdap is 7 years old. a. Any valid dose of Tdap administered at age 7 or older satisfies the requirement, including Tdap doses given as part of the primary series.	All previously required DTaP/DTP/Tdap vaccines
Polio (IPV/OPV)	The minimum age for each student for the first IPV/OPV dose is 6 weeks old; a. The first, second, and third dose must be separated by at least 4 weeks	The minimum age for each student to receive the first Poliomyelitis dose is 6 weeks old; a. The first, second, and third dose must be separated by at least 4 weeks. b. The fourth dose must be separated by at least 6 months from third dose; and c. The fourth dose is not required if the third dose was received at age 4 or older and at least 6 months after the last dose.		
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	The minimum age for each student to receive the first MMR dose is 1 year old.	The minimum age for each student to receive the first MMR dose is 1 year old; a. The first and second MMR vaccine doses must be separated by at least 4 weeks; and b. If MMRV is administered as an alternative combination immunization agent, the minimum interval period between MMRV doses must be at least 3 months		
Varicella (Chickenpox)	The minimum age for each student to receive the first dose of Varicella vaccine is 1 year old	The minimum age for each student to receive the first dose of Varicella vaccine is 1 year old; a. The first and second dose must be separated by at least 3 months, if the student is younger than 13 years old; b. The first and second dose must be separated by at least 4 weeks, if the student is 13 years old or older; and c. If MMRV is administered, the minimum interval period between MMRV doses must be at least 3 months.		
Meningococcal (MenACWY)	Not indicated for age		The minimum age for each student to receive the first dose of MenACWY vaccine is 10 years old	The minimum age for each student to receive the first dose of MenACWY vaccine is 10 years old a. The first and second doses must be separated by at least eight (8) weeks b. If the first dose is administered at age 16 or older, only 1 dose is required

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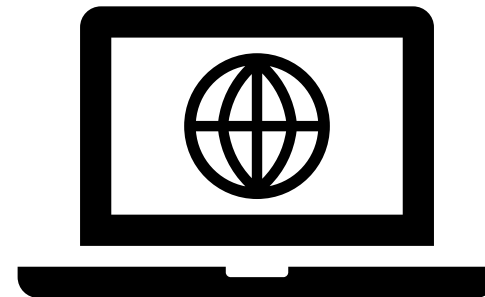
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[Maine School Vaccine Requirements Reference Guide.pdf](#)

Resources

- [Immunization for School Children 10-144 CMR Ch.261 _Eff Date 5-25-26-SOS.pdf](#)
- [Immunization Requirements for School Children FAQ Updated 7-13-2026.pdf](#)
- [School Nurse Immunization Resources | Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention](#)
- [Maine School Vaccine Requirements Reference Guide.pdf](#)
- [Vaccine Catch-Up Guidance](#)
- [Immunizations | Department of Education](#)
- [Meningococcal Vaccine Recommendations | Meningococcal | CDC](#)
- [HPV Vaccination and Cancer Prevention | ACS | American Cancer Society](#)
- [HPV-Toolkit.pdf](#)
- [HPV _Roundtable-HPV _Why _Age _9 _pdf](#)



Questions?

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