

Immunizations Requirements for the 2021-2022 School Year, [Implementation of LD 798](#)

Students enrolled in grades PreK through 12 are to be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio and varicella. Additionally, all students enrolled in grades 7-12 must be immunized against meningococcal disease. In May of 2019, [LD 798](#) was signed into law which removes both philosophical exemptions and religious exemptions from the exceptions to immunization requirements. Medical exemptions are still allowed and there is an exception for those students with an Individualized Education Plan and either philosophical or religious exemption that is in place prior to Sept 1, 2021. These exceptions are allowed as follows:

- Medical exemption: In accordance with [MRS 20-A §6355](#), a parent must provide a written statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that, in the licensed physician's, nurse practitioner's or physician assistant's professional judgment, immunization against one or more of the diseases may be medically inadvisable. This is to be provided annually to the school where the child attends.
- Philosophical or religious exemption: In accordance with [MRS 20-A §6355](#), 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:
 - A. 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; or
 - B. 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.

The Department has created sample materials to assist schools in implementing this law which can be found in the School Health Manual section of our website. schools to communicate with families, sample medical exemption, and a sample philosophical or religious exemption form. You may contact Emily.Poland@maine.gov with any questions.