The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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| **To:**  | Camp Directors |
| **From:**  | Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH, Director, Immunization Division |
| **Date:** | March 2019 |
| **Subject:** | Required Immunizations for Children Attending Camp and Camp Staff |

Vaccination is critically important to control the spread of vaccine-preventable disease. In 2017, a single case of mumps at a summer camp in Massachusetts resulted in isolation of ill individuals, vaccination of those without evidence of two doses of MMR vaccine at several camps, and quarantine of those who did not have evidence of immunity to mumps and who could not get vaccinated. International staff and campers with missing or incomplete vaccination records made rapid implementation of disease control measures very challenging. The current increase in measles cases across the country and around the world highlight the need for complete vaccine documentation for campers and staff.

**Required Vaccines:**

Minimum Standards for Recreational Camps for Children, 105 CMR 430.152, has been updated. Immunization requirements for children attending camp follow the Massachusetts school immunization requirements, as outlined in the [Massachusetts School Immunization Requirements](https://www.mass.gov/doc/immunization-requirements-for-school-entry-0/download) table. Children should meet the immunization requirements for the grade they will enter in the school year following their camp session. Children attending camp who are not yet school aged should follow the Childcare/Preschool immunization requirements included on the School Immunization Requirements table.

Campers, staff and volunteers who are 18 years of age and older should follow the immunizations outlined in the document, [Adult Occupational Immunizations](https://www.mass.gov/doc/adult-occupational-immunizations-massachusetts-recommendations-and-requirements-0/download).

The following page includes portions of the Massachusetts School Immunization Requirements table and Adult Occupational Immunizations table relevant for camps.

If you have any questions about vaccines, immunization recommendations, or suspect or confirmed cases of disease, please contact the MDPH Immunization Program at 888-658-2850 or 617-983-6800. Address questions about enforcement with your legal counsel; enforcement of requirements is at the local level.

**Grades Kindergarten – 6**

In ungraded classrooms, Kindergarten requirements apply to all students ≥5 years.

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| DTaP | **5 doses;** 4 doses are acceptable if the 4th dose is given on or after the 4th birthday. DT is only acceptable with a letter stating a medical contraindication to DTaP. |
| Polio | **4 doses;** 4th dose must be given on or after the 4th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose, or a 5th dose is required. 3 doses are acceptable if the 3rd dose is given on or after the 4th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose. |
| Hepatitis B | **3 doses;** laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable |
| MMR | **2 doses;** first dose must be given on or after the 1st birthday and the 2nd dose must be given ≥28 days after dose 1; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable |
| Varicella | **2 doses;** first dose must be given on or after the 1st birthday and 2nd dose must be given ≥28 days after dose 1; a reliable history of chickenpox\* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable |

# Grades 7 – 12

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

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| Tdap | **1 dose;** and history of DTaP primary series or age appropriate catch-up vaccination. Tdap given at ≥7 years may be counted, but a dose at age 11-12 is recommended if Tdap was given earlier as part of a catch-up schedule. Td should be given if it has been ≥10 years since Tdap. |
| Polio | **4 doses;** 4th dose must be given on or after the 4th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose, or a 5th dose is required. 3 doses are acceptable if the 3rd dose is given on or after the 4th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose. |
| Hepatitis B | **3 doses;** laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable. 2 doses of Heplisav-B given on or after 18 years ofage are acceptable. |
| MMR | **2 doses;** first dose must be given on or after the 1st birthday and the 2nd dose must be given ≥28 days after dose 1; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable |
| Varicella | **2 doses;** first dose must be given on or after the 1st birthday and 2nd dose must be given ≥28 days after dose 1; a reliable history of chickenpox\* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable |

**Campers, staff and volunteers 18 years of age and older**

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| MMR | **2 doses,** anyone born in or after 1957. 1 dose, anyone born before 1957 outside the U.S. Anyone born in the U.S. before 1957 is considered immune. Laboratory evidence of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella is acceptable |
| Varicella | **2 doses,** anyone born in or after 1980 in the U.S., and anyone born outside the U.S. Anyone born before 1980 in the U.S. is considered immune. A reliable history of chickenpox or laboratory evidence of immunity is acceptable |
| Tdap | **1 dose**; and history of DTaP primary series or age appropriate catch-up vaccination. Tdap given at ≥7 years may be counted, but a dose at age 11-12 is recommended if Tdap was given earlier as part of a catch- up schedule; Td should be given if it has been ≥ 10 years since Tdap |
| Hepatitis B | **3 doses (or 2 doses of Heplisav-B) for staff whose responsibilities include first aid;** laboratory evidence of immunity is acceptable |

\*A reliable history of chickenpox includes a diagnosis of chickenpox, or interpretation of parent/guardian description of chickenpox, by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or designee.