

# Introduction

Maine's new vaccine law goes into effect on September 1, 2021. This brochure is intended to offer an overview of the requirements by age/grade level and give you information on medical exemptions.

This information is provided by a partnership including Maine Immunization Coalition, Maine Medical Association, Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Maine Osteopathic Association.

We work together to protect Maine's children from outbreaks and preventable diseases, particularly in the school environment.

# Fact or Fiction?

## 1) Naturopaths can give medical exemptions. ❌

- Under Maine's vaccine laws, only licensed medical providers who hold an MD/DO, NP/PA can write medical exemptions.

## 2) The Law does not apply to private schools. ❌

- The law applies to all institutions that previously allowed attendance with philosophical or religious exemptions, including private schools

## 3) HPV is a requirement for school entry. ❌

- Students are not required at this time to be protected against Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Haemophilus Influenza B (HiB), Rotavirus, Tuberculosis (TB), Influenza (Flu), or COVID-19 though these immunizations are recommended by the CDC.

## 4) My child has an IEP from 2019 and can be exempt from vaccines for any reason as long as I provide a statement that my provider counseled me. ✅

- MD/DO, NP/PAs may be asked by parents to provide a counseling note for a patient that had an IEP previously.

## 5) Titers will be an acceptable alternative to vaccination as a proof of immunity. ✅

- Laboratory results or medical records demonstrating immunity from having had the disease will be considered acceptable evidence of meeting the immunity requirement. \*This definition will be determined during the rulemaking process that is currently underway.

# What Parents Need to Know: Maine's 2021 Vaccine Law

INFORMATION AND  
FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS



# What is a Medical Exemption?

The law supports the professional judgement of your MD, DO, NP or PA in whether a vaccine is advisable for your child.

The Maine AAP supports the CDC/ACIP vaccine schedule and contraindications to vaccination which is evidence-based and continually updated.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>

The Maine AAP/MMA/MOA have created a medical exemption form for providers to use for schools and for child care settings to help determine indications for medical exemptions.

For more information, visit:

[www.vaxtoschoolmaine.me](http://www.vaxtoschoolmaine.me)

## All About The Law

### The Law:

- Impacts any Institution that had previously allowed philosophical/religious exemptions including daycares, private and public K-12 school, post-secondary schools and some healthcare facilities.
- Allows medical exemptions.



# Which Vaccines are Required?

## K-12 Requirements

- **Kindergarten**
  - 5 DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; 4 DTaP if 4th is given on or after 4th birthday)
  - 4 Polio (if 4th dose given before 4th birthday, an additional age appropriate IPV should be given on or after the 4th birthday)
  - 2 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
  - 1 Varicella (chickenpox)
- **7th Grade**
  - Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
  - 1 Meningococcal Conjugate (MCV4)
- **12th Grade**
  - 2 MCV4 (only one dose is required if 1st dose is given on or after 16th birthday)

## Post-Secondary School Requirements

- MMR (two doses of MMR vaccine, administered after the student's first birthday)
- Diphtheria/Tetanus (one dose of diphtheria, Tetanus, pertussis (DTP); diphtheria, tetanus (DT); or tetanus and diphtheria (Td) toxoid within 10 years prior to enrollment.

## Daycare Requirements

- For more detailed information about daycare guidance, visit: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/documents/Daycare-Immunization-standards-revised.pdf>

## Maine's Required Vaccine Quick Sheet

Vaccine	Kindergarten	7th grade	12th grade	Post HS	Childcare
DTAP	x	x		x	x
IPV	x				x
MMR	x			x	x
VZV	x				x
Meningococcal		x	x		
HiB					x
PCV12					x
Hep A					x
Hep B					x

# IEP's & Exemptions

## Religious/Philosophical exemptions

A student covered by an individualized educational plan on September 1, 2021 who elected a philosophical or religious exemption from immunization requirements on or before September 1, 2021 may continue to attend school under the students existing exemption as long as:

- The parent or guardian provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that they've consulted with the parent or guardian and have 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 they've consulted with that student and have made that student aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize.

**In 2019, 48% of Maine's kindergarten classes were below protective immunity rates for vaccine preventable diseases.**

# Who gives medical exemptions?

Medical exemptions are given to people who provide a written statement from a licensed physician (MD/DO/NP/PA) that, in their professional judgment, immunization against one or more diseases may be medically inadvisable.