

**Sandwich Public Schools  
Health Services  
Immunization Exclusion Protocol**

According to Massachusetts General Law 105 CMR 220.00, all students entering into public school in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts must provide a written statement of appropriate vaccination signed by a licensed practitioner; such as a physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/105-cmr-220-immunization-of-students-before-admission-to-school/download>

Required vaccinations for the entry into a public school in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are determined by the Centers for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and are listed at the following web page:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts permits students to be admitted into public schools without the documentation of required immunizations if they are subject to a **Religious or Medical Exemption** from vaccination, or if they are determined to be homeless.

1. **Medical exemptions** come from the student's doctor and document a contraindication — the reason why an individual cannot medically receive the vaccine.
2. **Religious exemptions** come from the parent/guardian, and state in writing that a vaccine conflicts with his/her sincerely held religious belief.
3. Homeless children and children in foster care are protected from exclusion by the **McKinney-Vento Act**, which allows school administrators time to secure immunization records from other schools or health systems.

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not acknowledge philosophical exemptions to immunization requirements.*

- I. **Registering for School:** In order to register a student for enrollment in the Sandwich Public Schools a parent must:
  1. Provide written, dated and signed documentation of their child's immunization status; or
  2. Provide a written, dated and signed statement from a licensed health care provider stating the student's medical condition that contraindicates vaccination.
    - a. In addition parents will be provided with a copy of the **Immunization Exemptions and Vaccine-Preventable Disease Exclusion in School Settings** document, and asked to sign and return a copy of this form, acknowledging that they understand the exclusion process in the event of an outbreak of vaccination preventable disease.

- b. The written statement from the licensed medical provider and the signed copy of the **Immunization Exemptions and Vaccine-Preventable Disease Exclusion in School Settings** will need to be provided within 30 days of the students enrollment and again each year within 30 days of the start of the school year; or
  3. Provide a written, dated and signed statement, in their own words, expressing the family's religious beliefs contraindicating vaccination.
    - a. In addition parents will be provided with a copy of the **Immunization Exemptions and Vaccine-Preventable Disease Exclusion in School Settings** document and asked to sign and return a copy of this form acknowledging that they understand the exclusion process in the event of an outbreak of vaccination preventable disease.
    - b. The written statement of religious belief and the signed copy of the **Immunization Exemptions and Vaccine-Preventable Disease Exclusion in School Settings** will need to be provided within 30 days of the students enrollment and again each year within 30 days of the start of the school year.

## **II. Documentation by Nursing Staff**

1. The school nurse(s) of each school shall maintain a confidential list of students who are underimmunized and attending the school;
  - a. This list shall remained locked up securely and not accessed by anyone aside form the school nurse(s)
  - b. This information shall not be shared with non medical staff without the written permission of the students parent or guardian.

## **III. Exclusion During Disease Outbreaks:**

In situations when one or more cases of a vaccine-preventable or any other communicable disease are present in a school, all susceptibles, including those with medical or religious exemptions, are subject to exclusion as described in the Reportable Diseases and Isolation and Quarantine Requirements (105 CMR 300.000).

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/105-cmr-300-reportable-diseases-surveillance-and-isolation-and-quarantine-requirements/download>

The state prescribes the statute and regulation for reporting and control of diseases identified as posing a risk to public health. The Isolation and Quarantine Requirements at 105 CMR 300 establish isolation and quarantine requirements for cases of certain diseases and their contacts in certain high risk situations, including the school setting.

1. the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable illness:
  - i. All students and families shall be notified of the presence of such illnesses;
  - ii. School nurse(s) shall review the list of under-vaccinated students to determine students deemed susceptible;
  - iii. School nurse(s) shall contact the parent/guardian of identified susceptible students;
  - iv. School nurses shall initiate school exclusion protocol as outlined by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/vaccine-preventable-disease-exclusion-guidelines-in-school-settings/download>

- v. Parents / guardians will be given the opportunity to discuss the reason for school exclusion with school administration and teaching staff at that time. Personal details of any student's health status will not be discussed with non-medical personnel without written permission of the students parent / guardian.

Created March 30, 2020

Nicola Bordelon, BSN, C-AE, RN  
Nursing Department Head

Richard O. Bloom MD  
School Physician

May 4, 2020  
Date