



150 YEARS
OF ADVANCING
PUBLIC
HEALTH

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Influenza Immunization Update

Public Health Council
September 17, 2020

Pejman Talebian, Director
Immunization Division

Massachusetts leads the nation

Childhood Flu Vaccination Rates 2018-19 Influenza Season

Children 6 mos – 17 yrs	81%
• Children 6 mos – 4 yrs	88%
• Children 5 – 12 yrs	82%
• Adolescents 13 – 17 yrs	76%

Flu Vaccination Rates

	MA 2017-18	MA 2018-19	US 2018-19
Everyone 6 mos+	50%	59%*	49%
Children 6 mos – 17 yrs	74%	81%*	63%
○ Children 6 mos – 4 yrs	76%	88%*	73%
○ Children 5 – 12 yrs	74%	82%*	64%
○ Adolescents 13 – 17 yrs	72%	76%	52%
Adults 18 +	44%	54%*	45%
○ Adults 18 – 64 y/o	40%	48%*	39%
○ Adults HR 18 – 64 y/o	46%	55%*	48%
○ Adults 50 – 64 y/o	46%	54%*	47%
○ Adults 65+	58%	72%*	68%

*Statistically significant change

Flu Vaccination Rates - race and ethnicity

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Rates in MA in ≥ 6 months, by Race/Ethnicity, 2018-2019 Season

	MA	US	Ranking
White	59%	51%	4
Black	58%	45%	6
Hispanic	62%	46%	4
Other	58%	47%	3

Flu vaccination rates - health care workers

- The current *Healthy People 2020* goal for influenza vaccination among healthcare personnel is 90%.
- Vaccination rates in acute care hospitals, nationally and in MA **have surpassed 90%** and should be congratulated.
- We continue to work closely with healthcare facilities to encourage health care worker vaccination.

Flu season

2019-2020 flu season:

- 40,698 laboratory-confirmed cases reported to DPH
- 55,000-60,000 emergency department visits for flu
- 7,000-8,000 hospitalizations

Flu vaccine supply in Massachusetts

- DPH has purchased approximately 900,000 doses annually
- This year we will receive 1.156M doses
- A 28% increase this season

Flu vaccination during COVID-19

Flu vaccine is even more important now:

- Flu and COVID-19 have overlapping symptoms and signs
- Flu and COVID-19 are managed differently in terms of treatment and isolation
- Patients with ILI must be seen, evaluated and tested for both
- Some patients can be infected by both flu and SARS-CoV2
- High levels of flu vaccination will prevent illness AND reduce impact on healthcare facilities, resources, and staff

New Student Flu Immunization Requirement

All students

- Childcare attendees ≥ 6 months of age
- Kindergarten – Grade 12
- Post-secondary Institutions

Receipt of 1 dose of influenza vaccine for the current flu season by December 31st

Those entering between January 1 – March 31st must have received a dose of flu vaccine for school entry

Exemptions – medical or religious

Support from Massachusetts Pediatricians

Massachusetts Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

**The Massachusetts Chapter of the
American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP)
Statement on Flu Vaccine Requirements for all Massachusetts School Students
Enrolled in Child Care, Pre-School, K-12, and Post-Secondary Institutions
August 20, 2020**

The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP) supports the administration of all Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)–recommended vaccines for children and adolescents in our state. In this time of the COVID-19 epidemic, it is critically important to maintain optimal health of all our families. To that end, the MCAAP supports the MDPH's requirement that, as long as they have no contraindications, all children six months of age and older, those enrolled in child care, pre-school, K-12, and post-secondary educational institutions, should receive the annual flu vaccine this 2020-2021 flu season.

In this way, through the administration of the annual influenza vaccine, all children will be protected to the best of our ability against serious influenza infections. In addition, through community immunity, others of all ages living with and near these immunized children will also be protected to the best of our ability. This will save many lives and help preserve community medical resources.

The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP) represents more than 1,600 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists across the Commonwealth. Our members are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children by providing quality health care and advocating for them and their families. As our mission dictates, the MCAAP strictly promotes the health of children.

Support from Massachusetts Medical Society

Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS)  @MassMedical · Aug 26

Read @MMS_President @darosman's statement in support of @MassGovernor's #FluVaccine requirement for school-aged children. bit.ly/3j9A1TQ

Massachusetts Medical Society on flu vaccination for school-aged children

August 26, 2020

The Massachusetts Medical Society supports Gov. Baker and his administration in requiring children to receive influenza vaccination to attend schools in the Commonwealth as a prudent and proactive measure.

The Massachusetts Medical Society urges people of all ages to receive an influenza vaccination to protect themselves, their family members and their community from the flu.

Influenza results in thousands of hospitalizations in Massachusetts each year and causes illness and death in people of all ages. As influenza season approaches, our state will face the dual threat of seasonal flu and a likely resurgence of COVID-19 cases. Flu vaccination is a safe and important step toward ensuring that our health care system and health care resources are not overwhelmed by an overlap of transmissible illnesses that can have lethal outcomes.

We strongly urge all patients to contact their physician to schedule an influenza shot this fall. Data prove that a flu shot is safe for children and adults and prevents or reduces substantially the symptoms of influenza and the risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death.

-David A. Rosman, MD, MBA, President, Massachusetts Medical Society

7 5 5

The Boston Globe

EDITORIAL

Flu shot mandate a crucial public health move during pandemic

Other states should follow Massachusetts' lead in requiring that most students under 30 get a flu vaccination as part of their COVID-19 strategy.

By **The Editorial Board** Updated September 2, 2020, 2:59 p.m.



66

Other required vaccines

2019-20 MA School Requirements

Childcare (≥2 years):

1-4 Hib
4 DTaP
3 Polio
3 HepB
1 MMR
1 Varicella

Grade 7 – Grade 12:

1 Tdap
4 Polio
3 HepB
2 MMR
2 Varicella

Kindergarten – Grade 6:

5 DTaP
4 Polio
3 HepB
2 MMR
2 Varicella

Post-Secondary:

1 Tdap
3 HepB
2 MMR
2 Varicella
1 MenACWY (full-time students ≤21 years)

2019-20 MA School Requirements

For Kindergarten – Grade 6

DTaP	5 doses
Polio	4 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
MMR	2 doses; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
Varicella	2 doses; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable

2019-20 MA Immunization Surveys

Kindergarten Imm Survey Results

5 DTaP/ DTP	97.2%
4 Polio	97.3%
2 MMR	97.3%
3 Hep B	98.0%
2 Varicella	96.8%
History of chickenpox disease	0.2%
Immunity to chickenpox	97.0%
Series Complete	95.9%
Medical Exemptions	0.23%
Religious exemptions	1.10%

- Survey childcare, Kindergarten, Grade 7 and college
- 1144/1369 Kindergartens surveyed responded
- Imm rates for childcare, Kindergarten and Grade 7 are similar, with most rates consistently >95%
- College rates are lower, approximately 85-90%, with Men ACWY rates lower
- Exemptions rates are slightly lower for childcare and Grade 7

Connect with DPH



@MassDPH



Massachusetts Department of Public Health



DPH blog

<https://blog.mass.gov/publichealth>



www.mass.gov/dph