

# New Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MenACWY) Requirement for School Entry

Starting in the 2020-21 school year, all students entering Grades 7 and 11 will need meningococcal conjugate vaccine, MenACWY (brand names *Menveo* or *Menactra*) for school entry.

**Grade 7 entry:** 1 dose of MenACWY for all students.

**Grade 11 entry:** 1 booster dose of MenACWY received on or after 16 years of age. (1 or more doses of MenACWY are acceptable as long as 1 dose was received on or after 16 years of age.)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why require meningococcal conjugate vaccine?

MA school requirements generally follow the recommendations of the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). ACIP recommends that children receive a dose of MenACWY at 11-12 years and a booster dose at 16 years.

### What if a student is not 16 at the start of Grade 11?

Students who are not 16 when they enter Grade 11 will need a booster dose once they turn 16.

### What if my school has ungraded classrooms?

In ungraded classrooms, Grade 7 requirements apply to all students  $\geq 12$  years and Grade 11 requirements apply to all students  $\geq 16$  years.

### Does the meningococcal vaccination waiver apply to the new requirement?

No. The waiver is for residential students only; however, students are allowed medical or religious exemptions.

### What about Meningococcal B Vaccine?

Men B vaccine (brand names *Bexsero* or *Trumenba*) does not satisfy the MenACWY requirement.

## School Immunization Surveys

### Will my school have to report on meningococcal vaccine in my Grade 7 immunization survey?

Yes. The Grade 7 survey will be updated for Fall 2020 to include a question about meningococcal vaccine for all students.

### I'm at a residential school. Will I still need to complete a separate residential survey in addition to my Grade 7 survey?

No. The residential school immunization survey will be incorporated into the Grade 7 survey.

### Will there be a Grade 11 immunization survey?

Yes. Similar to the Kindergarten and Grade 7 surveys, a Grade 11 survey will be accessible in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) beginning in the 2020-21 school year. We anticipate the Grade 11 survey will open in January 2021 with a deadline for completion in March 2021.



Contact the Immunization Division at (617) 983-6800

Visit the MDPH website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations>