

DEXTER SOUTHFIELD

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN CLASSES 7-12 REGARDING IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to protect children against preventable diseases, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Education, has updated immunization requirements for school entry. These requirements incorporate the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). ***According to MDPH regulations, no child may be admitted to school without a physician's certificate or school immunization record which indicates that the child has received the required immunizations.***

1. Hepatitis B: 3 doses.
2. Varicella: 2 doses are required for entry into 7th grade. *Physician-certified, dated documentation of chicken pox disease is required in lieu of immunization.*
3. Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis: 1 dose of Tdap is required for entry into 7th grade if it has been 5 or more years since the last dose of DTAP, DT or Td.
4. Polio: 4 doses.
5. MMR: 2 doses of MMR are required for entry into 7th grade.
6. Meningococcal: 1 dose of MenACWY (formerly MCV4) is required in Grade 7-8 with a second dose of MenACWY required in Grade 11-12. Meningococcal B vaccine is optional and does not meet these requirements.

Parents are urged to consult their pediatrician to assess the immunization status of their child and to ensure that each child is vaccinated in accordance with these requirements prior to the beginning of school in September. For information about these or other immunization requirements, your pediatrician may consult the *Guidelines of the Massachusetts Immunization Program*, available from the local board of health or the Massachusetts Immunization Program staff.

Please note that if a student is not fully vaccinated based on legitimate medical or religious grounds, documentation, as such, must be on file in the student's health record. Philosophical exemptions are not allowed by law in Massachusetts. We urge families to consider the risks of incomplete vaccination, not only to their child(ren), but to other students and faculty of the School. Dexter Southfield may consult with the Brookline Department of Public Health as well as other agencies in order to protect the health of our students and faculty. In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, any child who is not vaccinated against the disease may be excluded from school. Dexter Southfield follows the Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines for Allowable Immunization Exemptions and Vaccine Preventable Exclusion, pursuant to 105 CMR 220.000 and M.G.L. c. 76, ss. 15, 15c and 15d.

