

# 2023-2024 Massachusetts School Immunization Survey Quick Guide



The annual Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) **Childcare/Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade 7, Grade 12, and College Immunization Surveys have been completed for the 2023-2024 school year.** The data have been reviewed and are posted on the *mass.gov* website.

## Survey Objectives

- 01 **Drive** health-seeking behavior.
- 02 **Provide** vaccine coverage data for local stakeholders at the individual school level.
- 03 **Assess** trends in vaccine coverage over time at varying levels of granularity.
- 04 **Inform** public health policy and programming.
- 05 **Build** open lines of communication between MDPH and school communities.

## School Requirements

Requirements apply to **all students in every grade**, even if they are over 18 years of age or from other countries attending or visiting classes as part of an educational program.

Immunization requirements are authorized under 105 CMR 220.00 and **enforcement** of school immunization requirements is discharged at the **local level**.

Additional information on the school immunization requirements may be found online at *mass.gov*.



Results from the 2023-2024 survey for all grades may also be found online at *mass.gov*.

## Immunization Records & Exemptions

- Immunization records should be collected each year a student is enrolled – **NOT** just the grades student compliance is surveyed.
- Medical exemptions **MUST** be renewed annually – statement from a physician that the vaccine is medically contraindicated.
- Religious exemptions **SHOULD** be renewed annually – statement from student or guardian that the vaccine conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs.

## Survey Access

The **2024-2025 School Immunization Survey opens on September 16, 2024 and closes on January 24, 2025.**

Kindergarten through Grade 12 surveys are completed in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS).

Childcare/preschool and college surveys use a unique link emailed to program contacts. The childcare/preschool survey link may also be accessed within MIIS for schools with older grades.

**Don't have access to the MIIS?** If you know your Access Administrator (AA), they may add you as an MIIS user.

**Has your AA left or you don't know who they are?** You may contact the MIIS Help Desk at [MIISHelpDesk@mass.gov](mailto:MIISHelpDesk@mass.gov) for assistance in determining who your AA is or to add a new one.

**Unable to login/password or username issues?** Contact the Virtual Gateway Helpdesk at 1-(800) 421-0938.

For all other survey related issues, you may contact the Imm. Assessment Unit at [ImmAssessmentUnit@mass.gov](mailto:ImmAssessmentUnit@mass.gov).

## Exclusion from School

Unimmunized and under-immunized students who do not have medical or religious exemptions may be excluded from school except for those covered by the **Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA)**.

Exposure to or outbreak of vaccine preventable disease may result in **mandatory exclusion** from school according to MDPH's exclusion criteria and guidelines document.



## Additional Resources



Mini-guides on using the MIIS, accessing the survey, and adding users may be found on the MIIS Resource Center.

Resources for completing the survey, including fillable worksheets and guidelines may be found online at *mass.gov*.

