School Immunization Survey



Data Assessment Unit, Immunization Division

Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

10/01/2026

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Agenda

- School Immunization Requirements
- 2026-2027 School Immunization Survey Timeline
- 2025-2026 Survey Summary Results
    - Response Rates
    - Series Complete Rates
    - Exemption Rates
- Questions!

School Requirements*

- Immunization requirements exist for school entry for every child enrolled in **public or private** school from early childhood through college
- Requirements apply to all students, even if over 18 years of age
- School requirements are enforced at the local level
- Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are not required by the state for school entry
- Students on catch-up timelines may not be considered compliant for the survey – However, they may be immunologically safe

Childcare/Preschool[§£¶†]

Attendees <2 years should be immunized for their age according to 2026 AAP Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule. Requirements listed in the table below apply to all attendees ≥2 years. These requirements also apply to children in preschool classes called K0 or K1.

Hib	**1-4 doses;** number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins
DTaP	**4 doses**
Polio	**3 doses**
Hepatitis B	**3 doses;** laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
MMR	**1 dose;** must be given on or after the 1st birthday; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
Varicella	**1 dose;** must be given on or after the 1st birthday; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable

Grades Kindergarten-6[§£¶†]

In ungraded classrooms, Kindergarten requirements apply to all students ≥5 years.

DTaP/Tdap	**5 doses;** 4 doses are acceptable if the fourth dose is given on or after the 4th birthday; DT is only acceptable with a letter stating a medical contraindication to DTaP
Polio	**4 doses;** fourth dose must be given on or after the 4th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose or a fifth dose is required; 3 doses are acceptable if the third dose is given on or after the 4th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose
Hepatitis B	**3 doses;** laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
MMR	**2 doses;** first dose must be given on or after the 1st birthday, and second dose must be given ≥28 days after first dose; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
Varicella	**2 doses;** first dose must be given on or after the 1st birthday and second dose must be given ≥28 days after first dose; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable

*Exemption to requirements: *medical* and *religious* must and should, respectively, be renewed annually.

Immunization Records & Exemptions



- Student 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

School requirements and medical exemptions are authorized under 105 CMR 220.00: Immunization of students before admission to school

Exclusion from School

- Unimmunized and under-immunized students who do not have medical or religious exemptions **may be** excluded from school
  - Exclusion from school is determined by local governance (e.g., school district)
  - Exception for *Every Student Succeeds Act* students
- Exposure to or outbreak of vaccine preventable disease may result in mandatory exclusion from school according to MDPH's exclusion criteria and guidelines document (see link)

Exclusion Guidelines in School Settings:
https://www.mass.gov/doc/vaccine-preventable-disease-exclusion-guidelines-in-school-settings/download

Additional information on exclusion criteria may be found in 105 CMR: 220. Additional information on isolation and quarantine requirements may be found in 105 CMR: 300.



School Survey Goals

School immunization requirements and assessment of compliance help

1. Drive health-seeking behavior
2. Provide vaccine coverage data at the school level for local stakeholders
3. Assess trends in vaccine coverage over time
4. Inform public health policy and programming
5. Build open lines of communication between MDPH and school communities

New Survey Fields (K, 7, and 12)

1. Does your school enforce immunization exclusion policies?
2. If so, what does that policy look like?

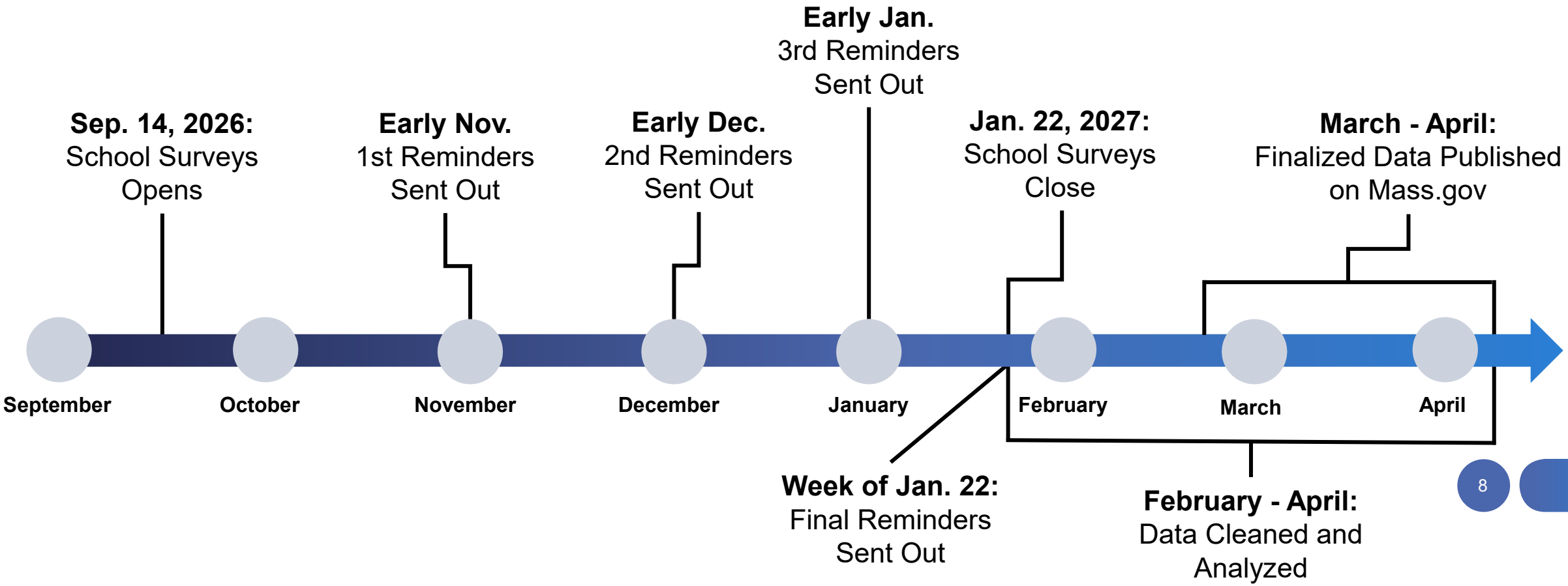
3. Free-text field to report on shifts in immunization rates or exemptions and provide feedback on the immunization survey process itself



Survey Timeline

Immunization surveys are collected for the following grades:

Childcare/Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade 7, Grade 12, and College



Survey Access

Childcare/Preschool & College

- No MIIS access required to complete these surveys.
- Surveys accessed through unique links emailed to school contacts. ***Do not share links.***
- Do not use the same link for multiple programs. Separate links are sent for each program.
- These links are sent at the start of the survey period and are included in reminder emails.
- These surveys will not allow you to save partially completed surveys.

- Can't find your link? Check your junk mail folder or reach out to ImmAssessmentUnit@mass.gov

Kindergarten, Grade 7, Grade 12

- Surveys completed in the MIIS, and participants need MIIS access to complete the survey.
- If you have a childcare/preschool program in your school, MIIS also shows the link to access the preschool survey.
- MIIS allows you to save partially completed surveys and return to them at a later time.

- For questions and technical issues please reach out to MIISHelpDesk@mass.gov

Useful Definitions

- Immunization rates and response rates are subject to change throughout the year as students present medical records or move between schools; this is a snapshot of immunization status when surveys were submitted.
- **Response Rate =** Proportion of schools that responded to the survey
- **Series Complete Rate =** Proportion of students who meet school requirements
    - Does not include students with exemptions
- **Exemption Rate =** Proportion of students with medical or religious exemption on file
- **Noncompliance Rate =** Proportion of students who neither meet immunization requirements nor have an exemption

Immunization Survey Data

2025 – 2026

Summary Results: Kindergarten, Grade 7, & Grade 12

Total Surveys Submitted: 2,487

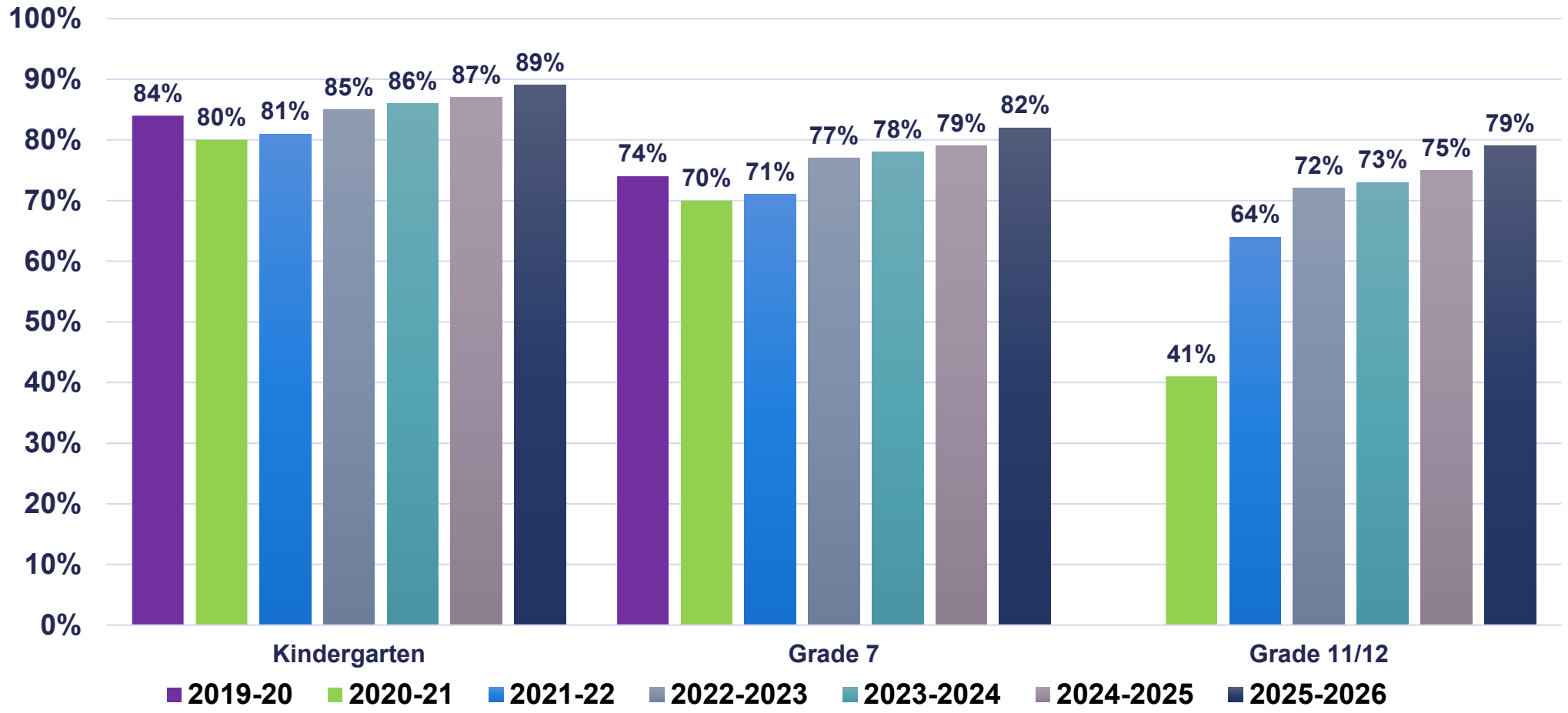
Total Schools Surveyed: 2,205

Total Students Assessed: 207,814

Total Surveys Expected: 2,938

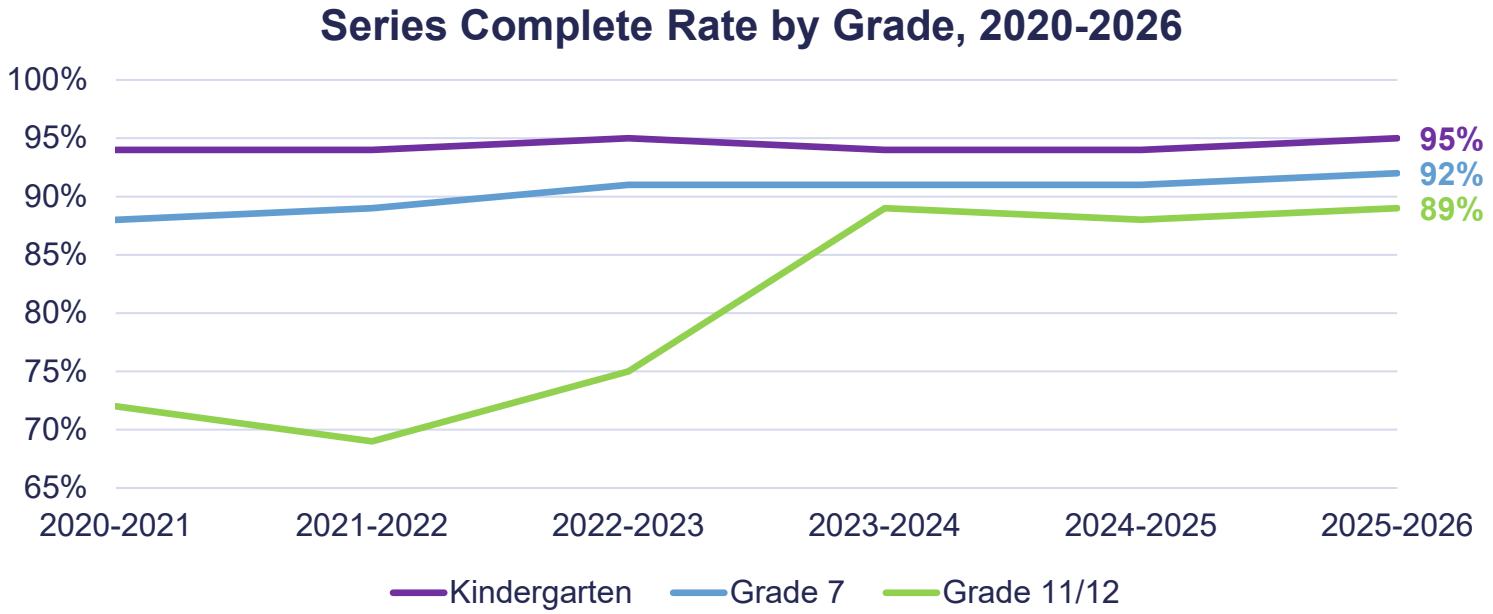
Response Rate by Grade

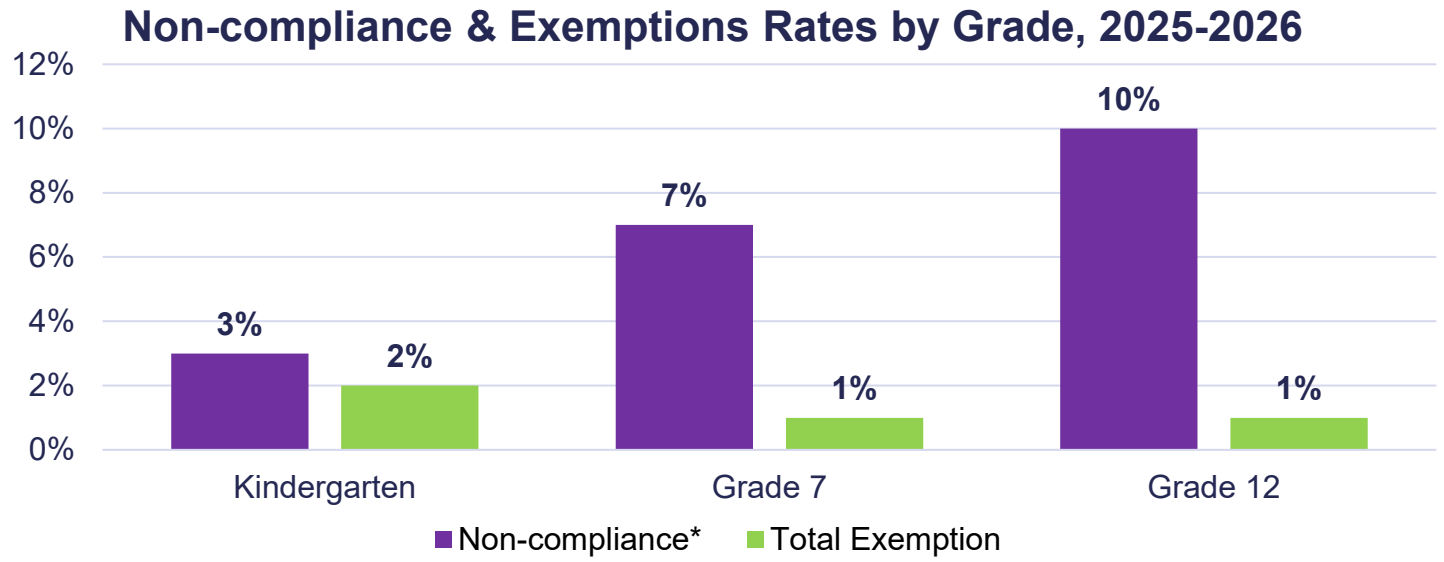
- Very consistent response rates across all grades.
- Slight increase in response rates this year in each grade.
- Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, the Grade 11 & 12 school immunization requirements were assessed for compliance at Grade 12 rather than Grade 11.
- May reflect changes in denominators due to changes in status and de-duplicating programs.



Compliance with Immunization Requirements

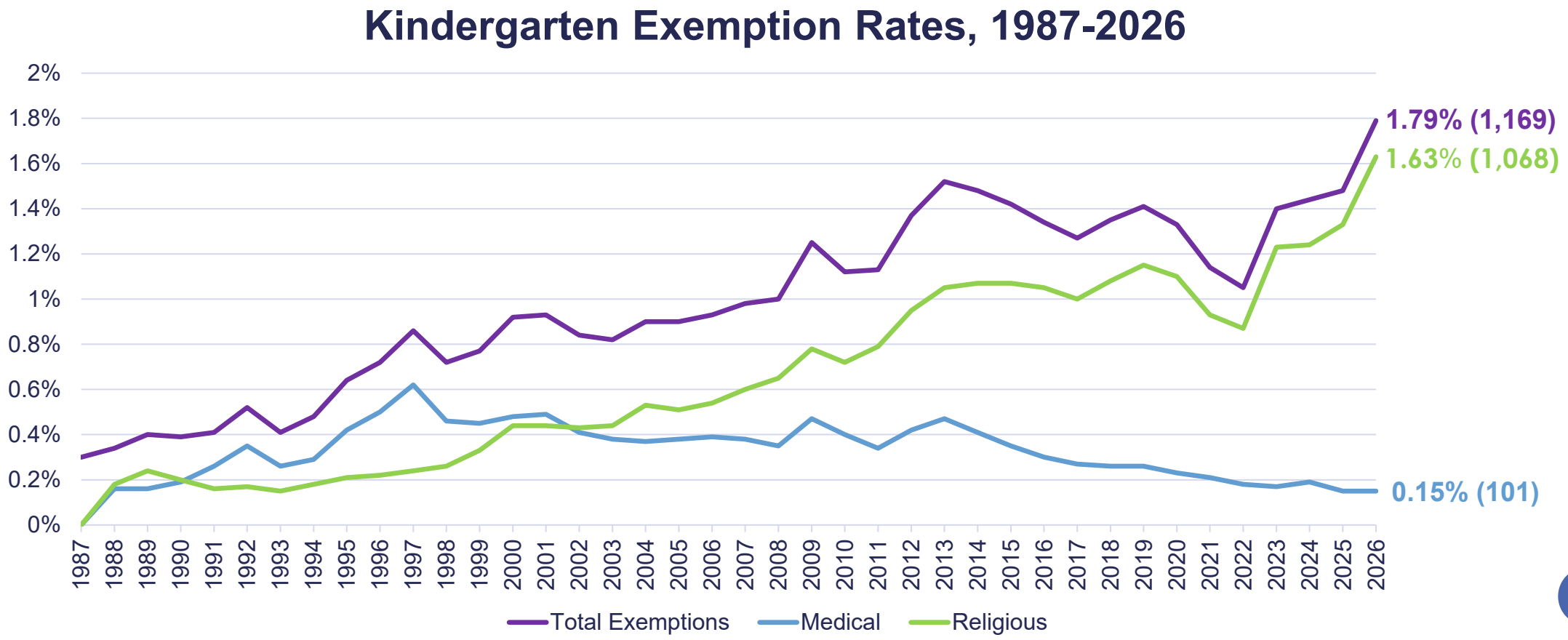
- Overall series complete rates remained relatively consistent into this year
- Grade 12 remained consistent in the past three years since transitioning from the Grade 11 survey last conducted in 2022-2023
- Non-compliance dropped by over 1% in Kindergarten and Grade 12, and 0.8% in Grade 7
- Total exemption rate rose in all grades by 0.1-0.3%





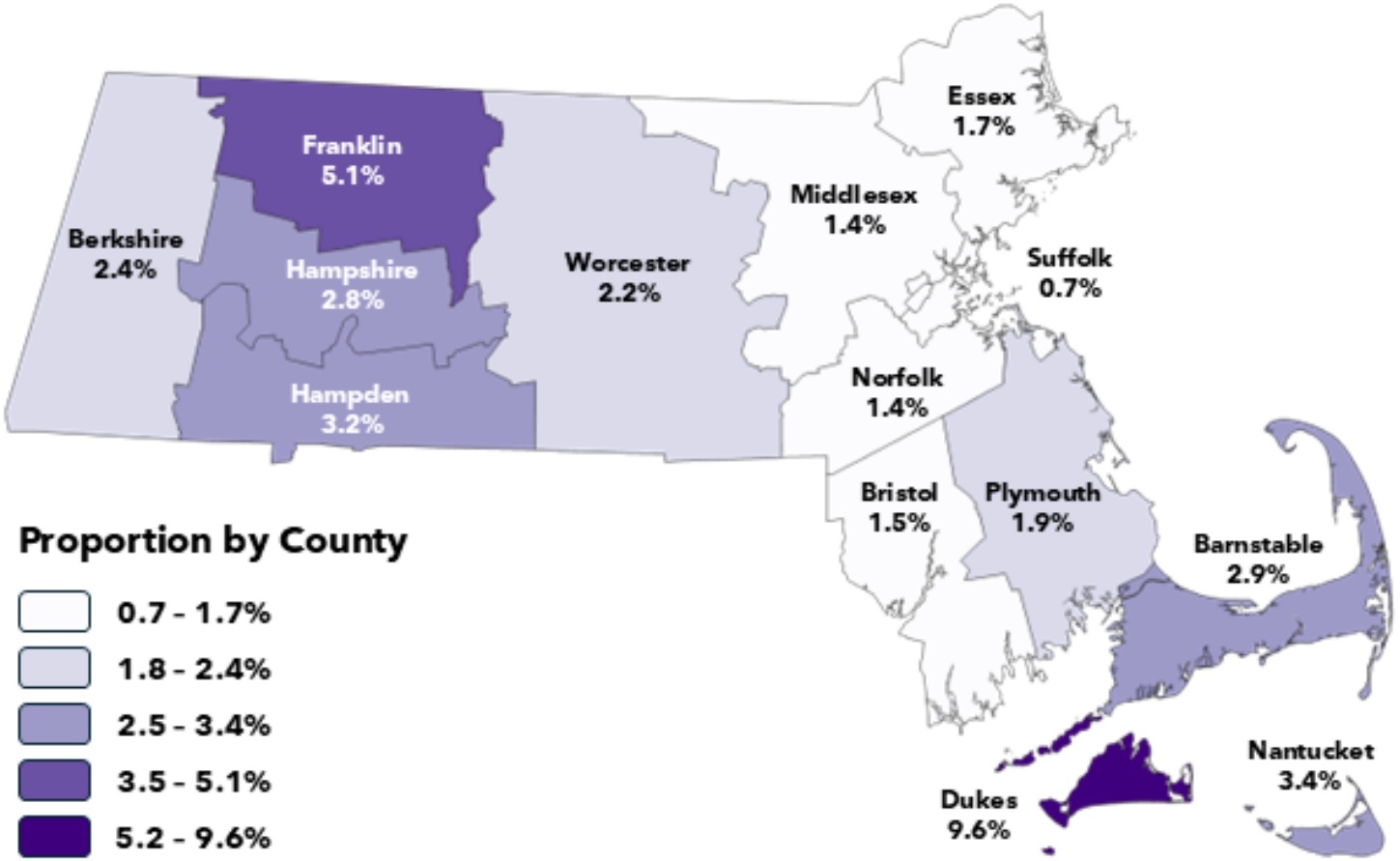
*Non-compliance: children who have neither evidence of meeting requirements nor exemptions on file

Religious and Medical Exemption Rates among Massachusetts Kindergarten Students, 1987-2026



Proportion of Kindergarten Students with an Exemption* by Massachusetts County, 2025-2026

*Includes religious and medical exemptions to at least one vaccine



Proportion by County

- 0.7 – 1.7%
- 1.8 – 2.4%
- 2.5 – 3.4%
- 3.5 – 5.1%
- 5.2 – 9.6%

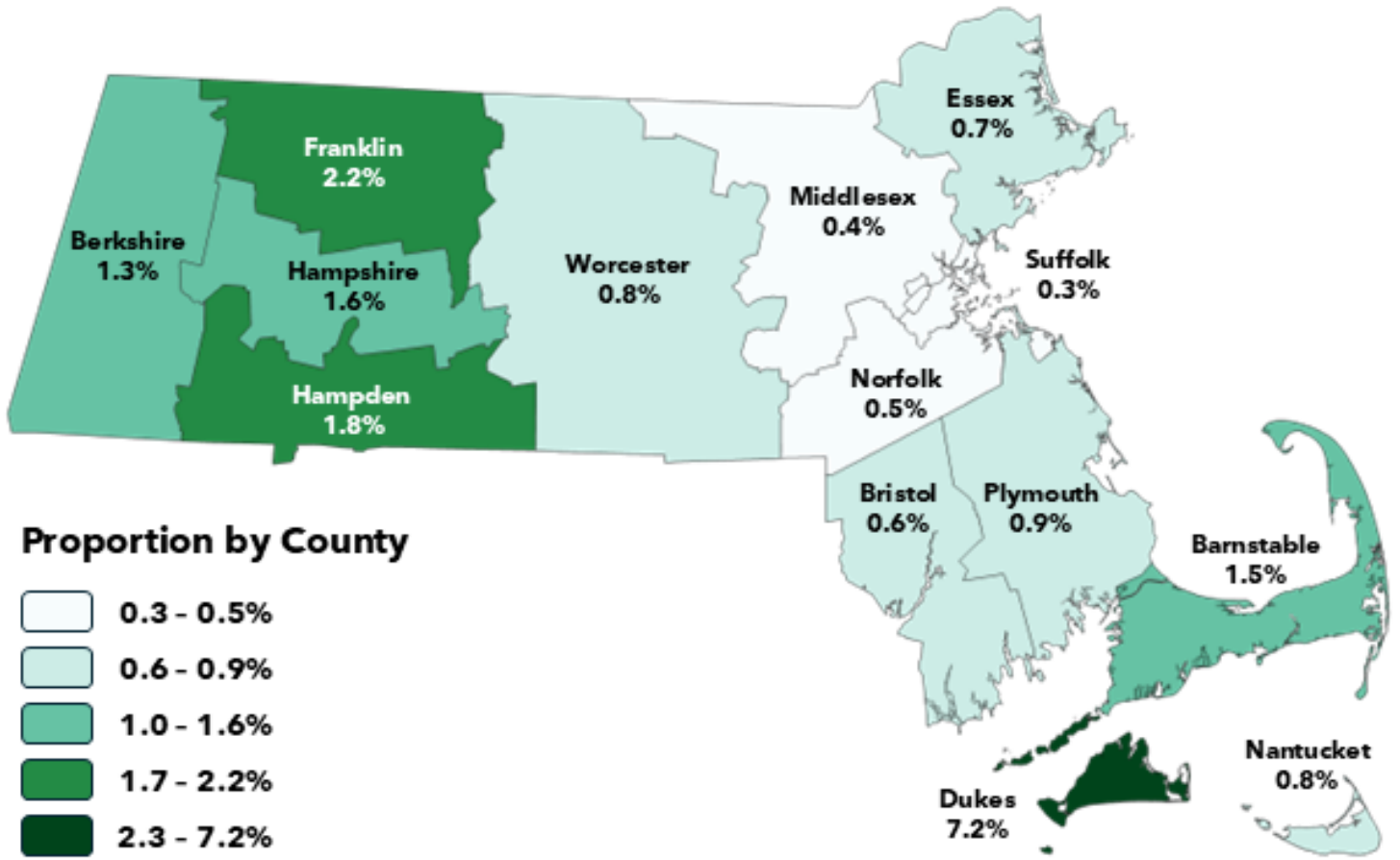
Statewide Proportion: 1.8%

Source: Massachusetts Kindergarten Immunization Survey, 2025-2026
Data are as of February 20, 2026, and are subject to change

Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Immunization Division

Proportion of Kindergarten Students with an Exemption* and No Documented Vaccines by Massachusetts County, 2025-2026

*Includes religious and medical exemptions to at least one vaccine



Proportion by County

- 0.3 – 0.5%
- 0.6 – 0.9%
- 1.0 – 1.6%
- 1.7 – 2.2%
- 2.3 – 7.2%

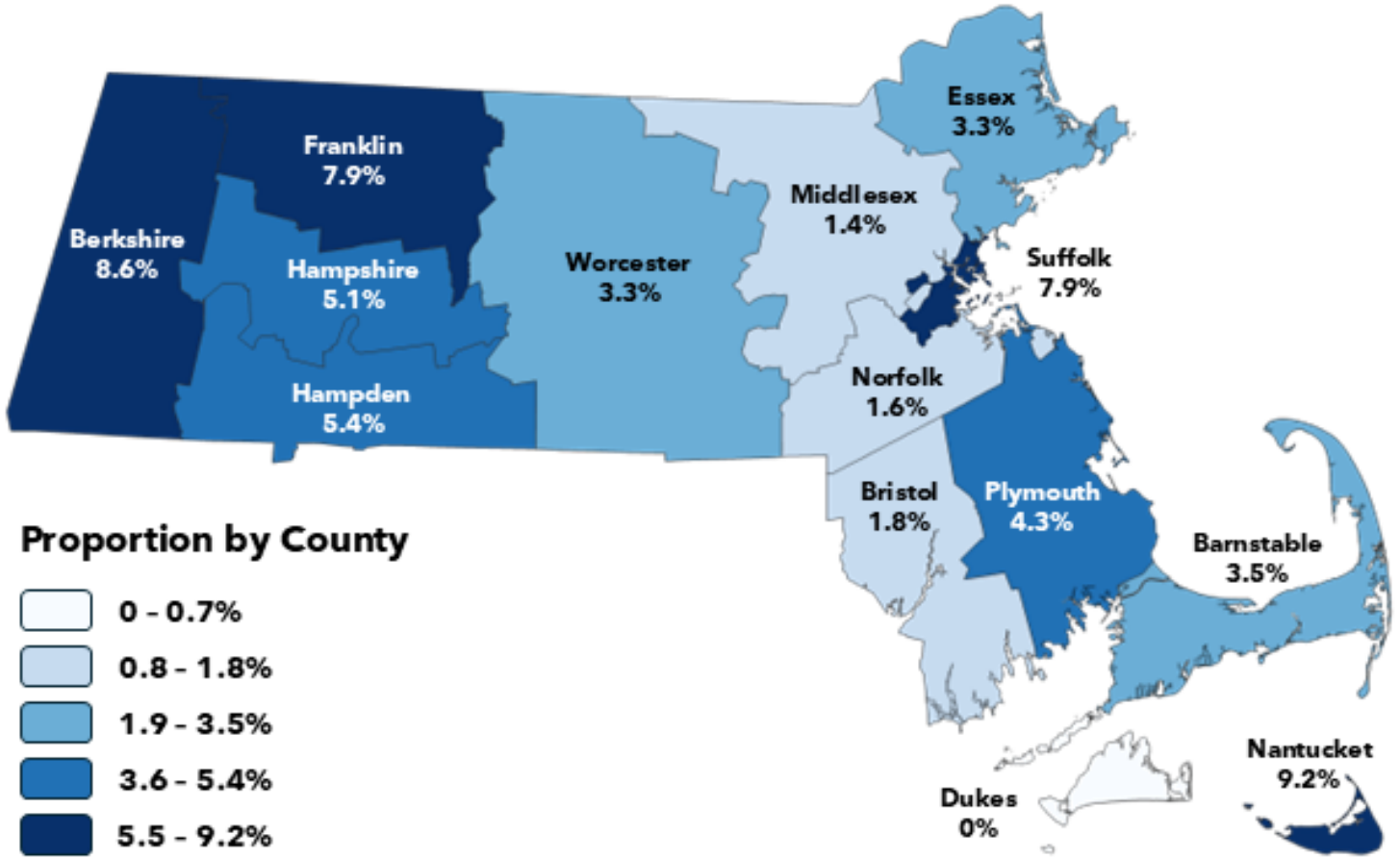
Statewide Proportion: 0.7%

Source: Massachusetts Kindergarten Immunization Survey, 2025-2026
Data are as of February 20, 2026, and are subject to change

Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Immunization Division

Proportion of Kindergarten Students Not Meeting MA School Requirements* by Massachusetts County, 2025-2026

*Students who are not fully vaccinated for Kindergarten entry (DTaP, Polio, MMR, Hepatitis B, and Varicella) and do not have a medical or religious exemption



Proportion by County

- 0 – 0.7%
- 0.8 – 1.8%
- 1.9 – 3.5%
- 3.6 – 5.4%
- 5.5 – 9.2%

Statewide Proportion: 3.2%

Source: Massachusetts Kindergarten Immunization Survey, 2025-2026
Data are as of February 20, 2026, and are subject to change

Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Immunization Division

Where to Find Published Survey Data

School Immunizations

Information about school immunization requirements and data

School immunization requirements exist to protect students and members of their community from serious vaccine-preventable diseases by ensuring high vaccination rates.

School immunization rates provide insight into the vaccine coverage in communities across the state. Since immunization rates are not uniform across the state, school immunization data highlight areas that may be more susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases. These data also show the importance of maintaining high immunization rates.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- School and camp requirements
- Herd immunity and importance of vaccines
- School immunization data
- Childcare/Preschool data
- Kindergarten data
- Grade 7 data
- Grade 11 data
- College data
- Information for schools and childcare programs
- Conducting School Immunization Surveys

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations

Kindergarten Immunization Data by School 2025-2026

Symbols and Limitations: * Did not respond; † Fewer than 30 students; N/A Zero Students ; ¶ Data discrepancies; ‡ Negative Gap

SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL TYPE	MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	5 DTAP	4 POLIO	2 MMR	3 HEP B	2 VAR	SERIES	EXEMPTION	UN-IMMUNIZED	NO RECORD	NON-COMPLIANCE
CAPE COD COLLABORATIVE	COLLABORATIVE	BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
CAPE COD ACADEMY	PRIVATE	BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
FAIR ACRES COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL	PRIVATE	BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	PRIVATE	BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
WALDORF SCHOOL OF CAPE COD	PRIVATE	BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
BARNSTABLE COMMUNITY INNOVATION SCHOOL	PUBLIC	BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE	91%	91%	95%	99%	96%	91%	3%	1%	0%	6%
CENTERVILLE ELEMENTARY	PUBLIC	BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
HYANNIS WEST ELEMENTARY	PUBLIC	BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE	99%	98%	99%	100%	96%	96%	1%	0%	0%	2%
WEST BARNSTABLE ELEMENTARY	PUBLIC	BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE	93%	96%	94%	98%	94%	93%	6%	0%	0%	2%
WEST VILLAGES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	PUBLIC	BARNSTABLE	BARNSTABLE	95%	96%	96%	100%	96%	94%	1%	0%	0%	5%
BRIDGEVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL	PRIVATE	BOURNE	BARNSTABLE	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY	PRIVATE	BOURNE	BARNSTABLE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
BOURNEDALE ELEMENTARY	PUBLIC	BOURNE	BARNSTABLE	97%	97%	96%	97%	96%	96%	4%	3%	0%	0%
CAPE COD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	PRIVATE	BREWSTER	BARNSTABLE	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
THE LAUREL SCHOOL	PRIVATE	BREWSTER	BARNSTABLE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
STONY BROOK ELEMENTARY	PUBLIC	BREWSTER	BARNSTABLE	96%	96%	93%	96%	93%	91%	2%	2%	0%	7%
CHATHAM ELEMENTARY	PUBLIC	CHATHAM	BARNSTABLE	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
EZRA H BAKER	PUBLIC	DENNIS	BARNSTABLE	93%	91%	90%	94%	88%	88%	7%	5%	0%	5%
EASTHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	PUBLIC	EASTHAM	BARNSTABLE	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
EAST FALMOUTH ELEMENTARY	PUBLIC	FALMOUTH	BARNSTABLE	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
MULLEN-HALL ELEMENTARY	PUBLIC	FALMOUTH	BARNSTABLE	93%	93%	93%	98%	93%	93%	2%	2%	0%	4%

THANK YOU!

Questions?

ImmAssessmentUnit@mass.gov

