

IMMUNIZATION RECORDS, STUDENT PHYSICAL, AND OTHER PERTINENT HEALTH RECORDS

- Massachusetts state law requires all newly enrolled students present a doctor's certification of immunizations and physical exam before entrance to school. When registering your child for school, please bring a copy of your child's most recent physical exam and documentation of the following required immunizations:
- Five (5) doses of DTAP Vaccine unless the fourth dose was given after the fourth birthday.
- (Only four (4) doses are necessary for incoming preschool students.)
- Four (4) doses of Polio Vaccine, unless the third dose was given after the fourth birthday.
- (Only three (3) doses are necessary for incoming preschool students.)
- Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B Vaccine.
- Two (2) doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine.
- (Only one (1) dose is necessary for incoming preschool students – must be given on or after the first birthday.)
- Two (2) dose of Varicella Vaccine or a reliable history of chickenpox documented by the child's physician.
- (Only one (1) dose is necessary for incoming preschool students – must be given on or after the first birthday or provide a reliable history of chickenpox documented by the child's physician.)

In addition:

- Date of a Lead Screening is also required prior to entrance into kindergarten or preschool.
- Date and results of a vision screening (stereopsis) done within 12 months prior to entry into kindergarten.
- Children who do not meet the minimum immunization requirements for school entry will be excluded from school until they are brought up to date with their immunizations. PLEASE obtain your child's most recent immunization records from your health care provider to bring to your child's registration appointment for his/her permanent health record. If needed we can identify what is missing and make a plan for compliance prior to starting.

VISION SCREENING

Physicians and other Health care Providers

As of July 15, 2004 Chapter 181, requires that:

"Upon entering kindergarten or within 30 days of the start of the school year, the parent or guardian of each child shall present to school health personnel certification that the child within the previous 12 months has passed a vision screening conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques to be developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education...For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental delay, proof of a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary, shall be provided."

Thus, it is now mandated in Massachusetts that:

- All preschoolers have a vision screening done within 12 months prior to their entry into Kindergarten.
- All children with neurodevelopmental delay, and all children who fail the vision screening, be referred for a comprehensive eye examination by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

As you know, Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, section 57 requires that each student have a physical examination at certain intervals. After completion, the Massachusetts Health Care Provider's Examination Form must be shared with the school to become part of the student's school health record. During the past year, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has collaborated closely with school physicians, pediatricians and nurses to update the existing form. The goal of this process was to identify information needed by the school to protect the health and safety of the student and to meet certain legal requirements. Another goal was to create a single-page document for ease of implementation. The form may be found at MDPH's website located at (http://www.mass.gov/dph/fch/schoolhealth/health_record.htm) and it includes a place to record the results of a vision screening.

