

CODE: JLCB

IMMUNIZATION OF CHILDREN

Children who enroll in Kittery's public schools are required by Maine law to present a certificate of immunization or evidence demonstrating immunity against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (chickenpox), and meningococcal disease.

Except as otherwise prohibited by law, every parent shall cause to be administered to the child the required dosage of an immunizing agent against disease.

A child who does not meet the immunization/immunity requirement may be enrolled in school under the following circumstances:

A. The parents/guardians provide to the school written assurance that the child will be immunized by private effort within 90 days of enrolling (officially registering) in school or first attendance in school classes, whichever date is earlier.

The granting of this 90-day period is a one-time provision. A child transferring from one school to another within the state may not be granted a second 90-day period. However, a period of 21 calendar days may be granted to allow for the transfer of health records from one school to another.

B. The parents/guardians provide a health care provider's written statement each year that immunization against one or more diseases may be medically inadvisable (as defined by law/regulation); or

C. The parents/guardians state in writing each year that immunization is contrary to their sincere religious or philosophical beliefs.

The superintendent will not permit any child to be enrolled in or to attend school without a certificate of immunization for each disease or other acceptable evidence of required immunization or immunity against each disease except as stated above.

A child not immunized or immune from a disease shall be excluded from school and school activities when in the opinion of a public health official the child's continued presence in school poses a clear danger to the health of others. The superintendent shall exclude the child from school and school activities during the period of danger, or until the child is immunized. For any child so excluded from school for more than ten days, the superintendent must make arrangements to meet the child's educational needs.

A superintendent shall also exclude from school and school activities any child on account of filth or communicable disease, in accordance with 20-A M.R.S. §6301. The superintendent shall also exclude from public school any child or employee who has contracted or has been exposed to a communicable disease as directed by a public health official, or as recommended by a school physician.

This policy shall apply to all K-12 children in the Kittery schools.

The immunization status of each child regarding each disease shall be noted on the child's individualized health record. These records are confidential, except that state and local health personnel shall have access to them in connection with ensuring compliance with these regulations or an emergency, as provided by the *United States Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974*, 20 U.S.C. §1232g(b)(1) and the regulations adopted under that act.

The Superintendent/designee is directed to develop such administrative procedures as are necessary to carry out this policy, comply with statutory requirements, and submit a summary report regarding the immunization status of children within the child's jurisdiction by December 15 of each year, on a prescribed form, to the Director of Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Commissioner of Education.

Legal Reference:	20-A MRSA §§ 6352-6359 Chapter 126 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules) Chapter 261 (Me. D.H.H.S. and MCDCP)
Cross Reference:	JLCC–Communicable/Infectious Diseases JRA–Student Educational Records
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