

# Kittery

## School District

*Truth & Knowledge*

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TO: KITTERY SCHOOL DISTRICT FAMILIES  
FROM: ERIC WADDELL, SUPT. OF SCHOOLS   
DATE: APRIL 13, 2021  
RE: MAINE'S IMMUNIZATION LAW

There is so much attention being paid lately to the COVID-19 vaccine (rightly so!), and I worry that this new focus has taken our attention away from changes to Maine's immunization law. Back in October of 2019, the School Committee revised Policy JLCB (Immunization of Students) to reflect Maine's new immunization law. Here are some important points of the new law (and our revised policy) that I wanted to make sure you were tuned into:

- Maine requires students in **grades K-12** to be fully immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and varicella.
- Students **entering grade 7** must have one (1) dose of Tdap and one (1) dose of MCV4.
- Students **entering grade 12** are required to have received two (2) doses of MCV4; however, only one (1) dose is required if the first dose is administered after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- As of September 1, 2021, **philosophical and/or religious exemptions** will not be recognized by the Kittery School District pursuant to L.D. 798 and in keeping with Maine law.
- **Returning students** must be compliance on the first day of school.
- **New students** must be in compliance within 90 days of enrolling or within 90 days of the student's first day of school (whichever date is earlier).
- A **medical exemption** is permissible under the law but must be properly submitted annually to the school nurse.
- Under rare circumstances, a student with an **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)** may be exempt from the law as detailed in Kittery School District Policy JLCB.

Questions about Maine's immunization law and Policy JLCB should be directed to one of our three school nurses who can answer your questions and advise you on the process of ensuring that your student is not excluded from school in the fall. I have included a copy of the policy for your easy reference.