



# HAMPDEN CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

Dear HCSS Families,  
Please note the following regulations in place regarding physical exams of children in the school system.

## **Massachusetts 105 CMR 200.000: Physical Examination Of School Children**

### **200.001: Purpose**

The purpose of 105 CMR 200.000 is to identify and take appropriate actions with respect to disabilities and medical conditions of school children in public schools as soon as possible so as to enable all children to obtain the fullest benefit of their educational opportunities and to identify and take appropriate action with respect to contagious or communicable diseases among students. School screenings under 105 CMR 200.000 are intended to supplement, not supplant, oversight of care by the student's primary care provider.

### **200.002: Citation**

105 CMR 200.000 shall be known, and may be cited as, 105 CMR 200.000: Physical Examination of School Children.

### **200.100: Physical Examinations Required by Primary Care Provider or School Physician**

(A) The school health program should encourage the performance of the physical examination required in 105 CMR 200.100 by the student's own physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant whenever possible. Said health care provider shall record the results of the physical examination on health record forms approved by the Department of Public Health (Department) and provide a copy of this record containing the results of the examination and the physician's, physician assistant or nurse practitioner's recommendations to the school. With the consent of the parent or legal guardian, the student's primary care provider shall be furnished with a copy of the record of a physical examination performed in the school.

(B) The school committee or board of health shall ensure that every student in the public schools be separately and carefully examined by a duly licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant, as follows:

**(1) within one year prior to entrance to school or within 30 days after school entry and at intervals of either three or four years thereafter. A student transferred from another school system shall be examined as an entering student. Health records transferred from the student's previous school may be used to determine compliance with this requirement; (2) students under 16 and over 14 years of age requesting employment certificates; (3) prior to a student's participation in competitive athletics, on an annual basis**

Based off of these regulations, HCSS requires current physical examination documentation for the following students:

- **For students entering school for the first time**, an in-person physical exam should be conducted one year before or within 30 days of school starting.
- **A student transferring from another school system** shall be examined following the school entry recommendation for students entering school for the first time, listed above.
- **For students seeking to participate in athletics**, an in-person physical exam should be conducted annually prior to a student's participation in competitive athletics. If it expires during the season, a new one must be submitted. Students who have not had this exam will be excluded from athletics. (Per MIAA Rules)
- A telemedicine well-child visit may be substituted for an in-person physical exam for the purposes of school attendance with the exceptions listed above.
- **For grades 4, 7, and 10** the exam should be conducted within one year prior to school starting and up to 30 days after the start of school.

#### **Middle School**

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Also, regarding immunizations of school children, according to Massachusetts 105 CMR 220: Immunization Requirements for Preschool, Elementary, and Secondary School Students; Immunization requirements should continue to be followed. Documentation of immunization status should be submitted to schools prior to the start of the school year.

This link allows you to access all of the current MA School Immunization Requirements

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/immunization-requirements-for-school-entry-0/download>

## **220.300: Scope**

105 CMR 220.000 applies to all students attending public or private elementary schools, secondary schools, postsecondary institutions of higher education, and certain pre-schools in the Commonwealth, including students from other states and countries.

## **220.400: Definitions**

Certificate of Immunization means either: (a) a form or letter signed and dated by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or designee which specifies the month and year of administration and the type/name of the vaccine(s) administered to the student; or (b) a dated report from the Massachusetts Immunization Information System which specifies the month and year of administration and the type/name of the vaccine(s) administered to the student.

Department means the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Elementary School means a program offered by a public or private school system on a regular basis, which provides care and custody, separate from parents, and typically includes grades kindergarten through 4, 5 or 6; also referred to as grade school or grammar school.

High School means a program offered by a public or private school system on a regular basis, which provides care and custody separate from parents, and typically includes grades 9 through 12.

Middle School means a program offered by a public or private school system on a regular basis, which provides care and custody separate from parents, and typically includes grades 5 through 7 or 8.

Post Secondary Institution means a college, university, institute, or other school of higher education (education beyond the secondary level; especially education provided by a college or university), whether accredited or not, that is enrolling students.

Preschool means a program offered by a public or private school system on a regular basis, whether known as day care, pre-school or other term, which provides care and custody during all or part of the day, separate from parents, for pre-kindergarten children and is not regulated by the Department of Early Education and Care.

Secondary School means a middle school or high school.

Student means any individual attending, or enrolled or registered to attend, preschool, elementary school, secondary school, or a postsecondary institution, as defined in 105 CMR 220.400, provided the educational program is offered in Massachusetts. Student also includes any individual from another country attending or visiting classes or educational programs as part of an academic visitation or exchange program. 105 CMR: DEPARTMENT OF

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## PUBLIC HEALTH

### **220.500: Immunization Requirements for Preschool, Elementary, and Secondary School Students**

(A) No student shall attend a preschool, elementary school or secondary school program without a certificate of immunization documenting that the child has been successfully immunized in accordance with current Department required immunization schedules, developed in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or any successor committee serving a comparable function.

(B) Immunizations. (Reserved).

(C) The requirements in 105 CMR 220.500(A) shall not apply where: (1) the student, or the student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor, provides written documentation that he or she meets the standards for medical or religious exemption set forth in M.G.L. c. 76, § 15; (2) the student, or the student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor, provides appropriate documentation, including a copy of a school immunization record, indicating receipt of the required immunizations; or (3) the student provides written documentation that he or she is immune, as defined in Department guidelines.

### **220.600: Immunization Requirements for Postsecondary Students**

(A) No student shall attend a postsecondary institution without a certification of immunization documenting that the student has been successfully immunized in accordance with required Department immunization schedules developed in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or any successor committee serving a comparable function.

(B) The following students are subject to the requirements of 105 CMR 220.600(A): (1) full-time undergraduate and graduate students; (2) part-time undergraduate and graduate students in a health science program who may be in contact with patients; and (3) full or part-time student attending a postsecondary institution in Massachusetts while on a student or other visa, including a student attending or visiting classes or programs as part of an academic visitation or exchange program.

(C) Immunizations. (Reserved).

(D) The requirements of 105 CMR 220.600 shall not apply where the student meets one of the criteria set forth in 105 CMR 220.500(C);

(E) Whenever possible, such immunizations are to be obtained prior to enrollment or registration. However, students subject to 105 CMR 220.600 may be enrolled or registered provided that the required immunizations are obtained within 30 days of registration and provided, further, that the postsecondary institution has policies and procedures for ascertaining which students have failed to obtain the necessary immunizations within 30 days, and for taking appropriate follow up action to ensure compliance with 105 CMR 220.000.

Medical and Religious Exemptions can be applied. Medical Exemptions come from a licensed healthcare provider and Religious Exemptions are from parents/guardians. A religious exemption form can be accessed on our webpage under "Parents"; "School Nurse"; "Religious Exemption Vaccine Form". Please make sure you have submitted all of the necessary medical paperwork prior to your child's start at HCSS.

*Kelly A Gemme MSN RN PED-BC*

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