



HW HEALTH OFFICE FLU UPDATE



Updated January 4, 2021

Massachusetts requires the flu vaccine for all students (hybrid and remote)

**The influenza vaccine is important
because:**



- It reduces the risk of getting sick with influenza, reduces the severity of disease (including the risk of hospitalization), and prevents the spread of influenza to others.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the influenza vaccine is especially critical to reduce the overall impact of respiratory illness on the population, protect vulnerable populations from severe illness, and decrease the overall burden on the healthcare system.



**If your child(ren) have not received
their flu vaccine yet, please call their
pediatrician today to schedule their
vaccine. Once received, please
submit the documentation to your
school nurse in whatever way is
most convenient. It can also be
faxed to (978) 468-0450 or attached
to a message in our [health portal](#).**



Frequently Asked Questions:

Which students need to receive influenza vaccine?

Students in Kindergarten – Grade 12 are required to receive influenza vaccine for the current influenza season for school attendance.

When do students need to receive the influenza vaccine?

Students must receive the influenza vaccine for the current season by **February 28, 2021**. This deadline was originally extended from the original deadline of December 31, 2020.

Are there any exemptions to receiving influenza vaccine?

Medical and religious exemptions are allowable in the state of Massachusetts.

What type of influenza vaccine can students receive?

Any age-appropriate licensed influenza vaccine for the current season fulfills the requirement. This includes injectable and nasal spray vaccine types.

If my school will be providing instruction remotely, will students still need to meet immunization requirements?

The school immunization requirements, including the requirement for seasonal influenza vaccine, apply to all Massachusetts students enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 12, regardless of whether the district is providing instruction in-person, or using a hybrid or remote learning model.