

Massachusetts Requirements for School Entry

- A copy of a recent physical exam (completed within the last year) is required prior to school entry.
- Immunization requirements:

PRESCHOOL

Hib	1-4 doses; the number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins
DTaP	4 doses
Polio	3 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
MMR	1 dose; must be given on or after the 1 st birthday; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
Varicella	1 dose; must be given on or after the 1 st birthday; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable

KINDERGARTEN

DTaP	5 doses; 4 doses are acceptable if the fourth dose is given on or after the 4 th birthday. DT is only acceptable with a letter stating a medical contraindication to DTaP
Polio	4 doses; fourth dose must be given on or after the 4 th birthday and ≥ 6 months after the previous dose, or a fifth dose is required. 3 doses are acceptable if the third dose is given on or after the 4 th birthday and ≥ 6 months after the previous dose
Hepatitis B	3 doses; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
MMR	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and second dose must be given ≥ 28 days after first dose; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
Varicella	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and second dose must be given ≥ 28 days after first dose; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable

Medical exemptions must be renewed annually at the start of every school year.





Welcome to Lowell Public Schools and the School Health Unit!

We have school nursing in all 29 public schools, most with full time nursing coverage.

The school nurse provides nursing care for injuries, illnesses, and other medical situations that occur at school, along with state mandated screenings and health maintenance.

Registering your child for preschool and kindergarten in Lowell Public Schools requires a certified record of immunizations from your child's physician. State regulations require each child to meet grade entry immunization requirements in order to start school. (see reverse page)

All immunization records must be provided in English and include all dates in full.

A physical exam within the last 12 months from a licensed provider is also required, along with one documented lead test and vision exam which is a requirement for kindergarten entry, and recommended for preschool entry.

Medications:

- If your child has a health condition requiring medications to be taken during the school day, or emergency medication such as an EpiPen, a physician's order is required for medication at school. This also applies to all non-prescription/ over-the counter medications.
- A Parent Consent and Medication Administration Plan also needs to be completed and signed and returned to the school nurse.
- You can obtain these forms from your school nurse or from the City of Lowell Health Department website.
- All medications are to be delivered to the school nurse in a pharmacy labeled container by a parent or guardian - NEVER WITH THE CHILD.

Children must remain home if they have a contagious illness such as the flu or strep; vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever within the past 24 hours; or if they have an undiagnosed rash.

It is important for parents to know their child's school nurse and to maintain ongoing communications regarding their child's health considerations. Please reach out to them with any questions, concerns, or with updates to your child's health.