

NORTH READING HIGH

189 Park Street

North Reading, Massachusetts 01864

Anthony J. Loprete

Principal

e 978-664-7800

78-664-7826



SCHOOL

Joseph W. Hehn

Interim Assistant Principal

[North Reading High School](http://NorthReadingHighSchool)

New!

Influenza Vaccine Requirement for School Attendance: Kindergarten through Grade 12

Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, *influenza vaccine will be required for all students.* Influenza vaccine is always important to receive to reduce the risk of getting sick with influenza, reduce the severity of disease if one does get sick (including the risk of hospitalization) due to influenza, as well as preventing the spread of influenza to others. During the COVID-19 pandemic, influenza vaccine will be 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.

Which students need to receive the influenza vaccine?

Students in Kindergarten – Grade 12 will be required to receive influenza vaccine for the current influenza season for school attendance unless they have a medical or religious exemption.

When do students need to receive the influenza vaccine?

Students must receive influenza vaccine for the current season by December 31, 2020.

Are there any exemptions to receiving influenza vaccine?

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

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.

Please provide documentation from your child's health care provider. Please make sure the form is signed and dated.

Please call the school nurse if you are having difficulty meeting this requirement.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Tracy Nicholas, MSN, RN

North Reading High School Nurse

tnicholas@nrpsk12.org

Massachusetts school immunization requirements are created under authority of [105 CMR 220.000 Immunization of Students Before Admission to School](#)

Requirements apply to all students including individuals from another country attending or visiting classes or educational programs as part of an academic visitation or exchange program. Requirements apply to all students, even if over 18 years of age.

Grades 7 – 12†

In ungraded classrooms, Grade 7 requirements apply to all students ≥12 years.

Tdap	1 dose; and history of DTaP primary series or age appropriate catch-up vaccination. Tdap given at ≥7 years may be counted, but a dose at age 11-12 is recommended if Tdap was given earlier as part of a catch-up schedule. Td or Tdap should be given if it has been ≥10 years since last Tdap
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. 2 doses of Heplisav-B given on or after 18 years of age are 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

NEW – Influenza Requirement

Influenza	1 dose; seasonal influenza vaccine for the current flu season (July-June) must be received annually by December 31 st . New students entering between January 1 st and March 31 st must have received a dose of vaccine for the current flu season for entry.
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NEW – Meningococcal Requirements

Grade 7	1 dose; 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement.
Grade 11 [‡]	2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) must be given on or after the 16th birthday and ≥ 8 weeks after the previous dose. 1 dose is acceptable if it was given on or after the 16th birthday. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement.

Meningococcal Vaccine Phase-In Schedule

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1 Dose MenACWY	Grade 7	Grades 7-8	Grades 7-9	Grades 7-10
2 Doses MenACWY	Grade 11	Grades 11-12	Grades 11-12	Grades 11-12

§ Address questions about enforcement with your legal counsel. School requirements are enforced at the local level.

†Medical exemptions (statement from a physician stating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated for a student) and religious exemptions (statement from a student, or parent/guardian if the student is <18 years of age, stating that a vaccine is against sincerely held religious beliefs) should be renewed annually at the start of the school year.

* A reliable history of chickenpox includes a diagnosis of chickenpox, or interpretation of parent/guardian description of chickenpox, by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or designee.

‡ Students who are 15 years old in grade 11 are in compliance until they turn 16 years old.