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Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)
Guidance on Recommended Reference Materials for Pediatric Immunization Schedules
January 2026

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is issuing this notification to inform clinicians of a change in recommended reference materials for pediatric immunization schedules.

DPH has a longstanding and ongoing commitment to promoting evidence-based immunization practices that protect communities from vaccine preventable illnesses. Following a review of recent changes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) pediatric immunization schedule, DPH now recommends that clinicians in Massachusetts use the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule** as the primary reference for the routine immunization of infants, children, and adolescents.

DPH recognizes the importance of clear, consistent, and evidence-based guidance to facilitate safe and effective vaccination practices. AAP is a national professional organization representing pediatric physicians, and its immunization schedule is developed by pediatric experts and updated regularly to reflect current evidence and clinical best practices for immunizing children and adolescents. The AAP immunization schedule aligns with science-backed pediatric standards of care and provides detailed guidance that supports clinical decision-making in pediatric settings.

Clinicians should continue to follow all applicable state requirements, including the immunization requirements for school and camp entry (aligned with AAP recommendations), and reporting obligations, including documentation of administered immunizations in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS).

DPH will continue to monitor national immunization policy updates and will communicate any additional guidance as needed.

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting the health of Massachusetts children and families.

Resources

- The American Academy of Pediatrics Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule
- Massachusetts Immunization Requirements for School and Camp Entry
- Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS)
- AAP Communicating with Families and Promoting Vaccine Confidence
- DPH recommended guidance for vaccines