

## *Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Immunization Policy*

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The Martha's Vineyard Public Schools adhere to the Massachusetts's General Laws Chapter 76, §15 that states:

*“No child shall be admitted to school except upon presentation of a physician's certificate that the child has been successfully immunized”.*

In order to comply with state law, written proof of completed immunizations must be received prior to entrance to school. There are three situations in which children who are not appropriately immunized may be admitted to school. They are:

1. A medical exemption is allowed if a physician submitted documentation that an immunization is medically contraindicated.
2. A religious exemption is allowed if a parent or guardian submits a school accepted religious exemption form.
3. Homeless children cannot be denied entry to school if they do not have their immunization records in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Philosophical exemptions are not allowed by law in Massachusetts, even if signed by a physician. Medical and religious exemptions must be kept in the students health records in school (105 CMR 220.000 and M.G.L. c, 76, ss. 15 and 15c). Medical exemptions will be renewed annually in writing from the physician. Religious exemptions are signed upon entry into any new school.

In situations when one or more cases of vaccine preventable disease are present in a school, all susceptible students, including those with medical or religious exemptions, are subject to exclusion as described in the Reportable Diseases and Isolation and Quarantine Requirements (105 CMR 300.000). The MVPS follow the Department of Public Health Guidelines for exclusion of vaccine preventable diseases.

When a student enters one of the MVPS and is either medically or religiously exempt from immunizations, the parent or guardian will be given a copy of the immunization policy and guidelines for exclusion in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease.