

# **State Laws and Requirements for School Entry:**

## **Lead Requirements:**

### **What the Law Says:**

M.G.L. c.111, s.193 and DPH's lead poisoning prevention and control regulations (150 CMR 460.050–460.070) require universal, periodic blood lead screening for preschool children, once between the ages of 9 months and 12 months, and again at ages 2 and 3. The health care provider must also determine whether a child is at high risk for lead poisoning and, if so, schedule an additional screening at age 4. Lead poisoning screening is a condition for entry into kindergarten.

Regulations of the Office of Child Care Services require child care centers to obtain documentation, for each child, of compliance with DPH's mandatory screening schedule.

## **Physical Examination Requirements:**

### **Specific Requirements:**

M.G.L. c.71, s.57 and related amendments and regulations (105 CMR 200.000–200.920) require physical examinations of schoolchildren within 6 months before entry into school or during the first year after entry, and at intervals of either 3 or 4 years thereafter, such as during kindergarten, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. It is the responsibility of the school committee or the local board of health to designate these intervals. The regulations require physical examinations for:

- (1) children referred because of frequent absences due to unexplained illness;
- (2) children referred because of known physical defects that require repeated appraisal;
- (3) children referred from a teacher-nurse conference because the child is not making expected progress in school or because of signs of illness noted by the teacher or nurse;
- (4) children under 16 and over 14 years of age requesting employment certificates; and
- (5) children planning to participate in competitive athletics annually, previous to such participation.

## **Immunization Requirements:**

### **School Immunization Law:**

#### ***Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, § 15***

“No child shall, except as hereinafter provided, be admitted to school except upon presentation of a physician's certificate that the child has been successfully immunized against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles and poliomyelitis and such other communicable diseases as may be specified from time to time by the Department of Public Health.

A child shall be admitted to school upon certification by a physician that he has personally examined such child and that in his opinion the physical condition of the child is such that his health would be endangered by such vaccination or by any of such immunizations. Such certification shall be submitted at the beginning of each school year to the physician in charge of the school health program. If the physician in charge of the school health program does not agree with the opinion of the child's physician, the matter shall be referred to the Department of Public Health, whose decision will be final.

In the absence of an emergency or epidemic of disease declared by the Department of Public Health, no child whose parent or guardian states in writing that vaccination or immunization conflicts with his sincere religious beliefs shall be required to present said physician's certificate in order to be admitted to school.”

