

DRAFT:

5005-B Vaccination and Extracurriculars Policy

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the School Committee recognizes the resulting disruption of the traditional school day and year; growing concerns of students, families and the community; and the increasing number of issues that will affect public education.

Therefore, the School Committee establishes an interim policy, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, that will promote public safety and the safety of students, faculty, and staff. Effective December 1, 2021, vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 is required for all age-eligible students to participate in school-sponsored sports and rostered extracurricular activities that occur outside of the school day.

For the purposes of this policy and procedures developed pursuant to this policy only, the following definitions apply:

“Age-eligible students” are defined as students enrolled in Belmont Public Schools who are age-eligible to receive a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). Age-eligible excludes students who are eligible to receive vaccination against COVID-19 under FDA Emergency Use Authorization.

“Age ineligible students” are defined as students enrolled in Belmont Public Schools who are not age-eligible to receive an FDA approved vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), including students who are eligible to receive vaccination against COVID-19 under FDA Emergency Use Authorization.

“Vaccination” is defined as fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), meaning two weeks after the final dose of initial vaccination, excluding booster shots, required by the particular vaccine brand.

“Rostered” activities are defined as those activities sponsored by the School Department whereby a list of participants is created in advance of such a recurring activity.

Age-eligible students

Students who participate in school-sponsored sports and/or rostered extracurriculars that occur outside of the school day are required to be vaccinated except in those exceptional circumstances, where a student is unable to receive COVID-19 vaccination due to medical disability, or is unwilling to receive COVID-19 vaccination due to a sincerely held religious belief. Age-eligible students are required to provide proof of vaccination to Belmont Public Schools. Age-eligible students who qualify for a medical or religious exemption are required to participate in weekly state-sponsored COVID-19 testing provided through Belmont Public Schools or submit evidence of a negative COVID-19 test on a weekly basis.

Students who are awaiting vaccination are required to participate in state-sponsored testing through Belmont Public Schools or submit evidence of a negative COVID-19 test on a weekly basis.

Age-ineligible students

Students who participate in school-sponsored sports and/or rostered extracurriculars that occur outside of the school day and are age-ineligible are required to participate in state-sponsored COVID-19 testing through Belmont Public Schools or submit evidence of a negative COVID-19 test on a weekly basis. Students who are age-ineligible to receive full FDA approved vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-

19), who are eligible to receive vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pursuant to the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization will be exempted from COVID-19 testing required for age-ineligible students upon providing proof of vaccination to Belmont Public Schools. Students who will become age-eligible for vaccination during the sports and/or rostered extracurricular season in question must provide proof of vaccination or qualification for medical disability or religious exemption within eight weeks of becoming age-eligible.

The Superintendent, or designee, shall develop a procedure to implement this policy that ensures all student's vaccination status and weekly testing information will be maintained confidentially via the student's health record.

Students who do not comply with this policy and the procedures developed under this policy will not be permitted to participate in school-sponsored sports and rostered extracurricular activities that occur outside of the school day.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

REFERENCE:

American Academy of Pediatrics, Policy Statement: COVID-19 Vaccines in Children and Adolescents. August 2021, 148 (2) e2021052336; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-052336>