

FOR SCHOOLS AND PARENTS: K-12 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS



NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) Vaccine Preventable Disease Program

Summary of NJ School Immunization Requirements

Listed in the chart below are the minimum required number of doses your child must have to attend a NJ school.* This is strictly a summary document. Exceptions to these requirements (i.e. provisional admission, grace periods, and exemptions) are specified in the Immunization of Pupils in School rules, New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4). Please reference the administrative rules for more details https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/acode/. Additional vaccines are recommended by Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for optimal protection. For the complete ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>.

| Grade/level child enters school: | | Minimum Number of Doses for Each Vaccine | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---------------------------|----------------|--|---|
| | | DTaP Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis | Polio Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) | MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) | Varicella (Chickenpox) | Hepatitis B | Meningococcal | Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) |
| Kindergarten – 1st grade | | A total of 4 doses with one of these doses on or after the 4 th birthday <u>OR</u> any 5 doses [†] | A total of 3 doses with one of these doses given on or after the 4 th birthday <u>OR</u> any 4 doses [‡] | 2 doses [§] | 1 dose | 3 doses | None | None |
| 2nd – 5th grade | | 3 doses <i>NOTE: Children 7 years of age and older, who have not been previously vaccinated with the primary DTaP series, should receive 3 doses of Td. For use of Tdap, see footnote.[†]</i> | 3 doses | 2 doses | 1 dose | 3 doses | None | See footnote [†] |
| 6th grade and higher | | 3 doses | 3 doses | 2 doses | 1 dose | 3 doses | 1 dose required for children born on or after 1/1/97 <u>given no earlier than ten years of age[¶]</u> | 1 dose required for children born on or after 1/1/97 [¶] |

* If a child has not received any vaccines, he/she would need at least one dose of each required vaccine to enter school provisionally.

‡**DTaP:** Children who previously attended child care/preschool should have received 4 doses since the requirement to receive the fourth birthday booster dose (5th dose) does not apply until the child attends Kindergarten. However, if one of these 4 doses was given on or after the 4th birthday, this child will not need an additional dose for Kindergarten. Alternatively, any 5 doses are acceptable.

- **Persons aged 7 years and older who are not fully immunized with DTaP vaccine** should receive Tdap vaccine preferably as the first dose in the catch-up series; if additional doses are needed, use Td vaccine. Per the ACIP, a child who receives a dose of Tdap between 7 through 10 years of age as part of the catch-up series should receive another dose of Tdap at age 11 or 12 years. However, NJDOH would not require another dose of Tdap for school attendance. For additional information, please visit <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2055.pdf>.

‡**Polio:** Children who previously attended child care/preschool should have 3 doses since the requirement to receive the fourth birthday booster dose (4th dose) does not apply until the child attends Kindergarten. However, if one of these 3 doses was given on or after the 4th birthday, this child will not need an additional dose for Kindergarten. Alternatively, any 4 doses are acceptable.

§**MMR:** A child is required to receive two doses of measles, one dose of mumps, and one dose of rubella once he/she enters Kindergarten. Since single antigen (separate components of the vaccine) is not readily available, most children will have two MMR vaccines.

The Antibody Titer Law (Holly's Law, NJSA 26:2N-8-11), passed on January 14, 2004, requires the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to accept serologic evidence of protective immunity to measles, mumps and rubella in lieu of the second ACIP recommended measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. For more information, please visit http://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/antibody_titer_law.pdf.

‡**Varicella** vaccine is only required for children born on or after January 1, 1998. A child will not have to receive the varicella vaccine if he/she previously had chickenpox as long as a parent can provide the school with one of the following: 1) Documented laboratory evidence showing immunity (protection) from chickenpox, 2) A physician's written statement that the child previously had chickenpox, or 3) A parent's written statement that the child previously had chickenpox.

‡**Meningococcal and Tdap** vaccines are required for all entering 6th graders who are 11 years of age or older. If in 6th grade and under age 11, students must receive the vaccines within 2 weeks of their 11th birthday. Meningococcal (MenACWY) vaccines administered at age 10 or older will be accepted for NJ school attendance.

NOTE: NJ also accepts valid medical and religious exemptions (reasons for not showing proof of immunizations) as per the NJ Immunization of Pupils in School regulations, (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4). Children without proof of immunity as defined by ACIP, including those with medical and religious exemptions, may be excluded from a school, preschool, or child care facility during a vaccine preventable disease outbreak or threatened outbreak as determined by the Commissioner, Department of Health or his or her designee. In addition, anybody having control of a school may, on account of the prevalence of any communicable disease, or to prevent the spread of communicable disease, prohibit the attendance of any teacher or pupil of any school under their control and specify the time during which the teacher or scholar shall remain away from school. The Department of Health shall provide guidance to the school of the appropriateness of any such prohibition.

For the complete list of “NJ Immunization Requirements Frequently Asked Questions”, please visit https://nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/.