



POLICY

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Immunization

5320 IMMUNIZATION

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, the Board of Education requires the immunization of students against certain diseases in accordance with state statute and rules of the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services.

A student shall not knowingly be admitted or retained in school if the parent has not submitted acceptable evidence of the child's immunization, according to schedules specified in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 – Immunization of Pupils in School. However, a child may be admitted to school on a provisional basis in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5 and Regulation 5320.

Medical or religious exemptions to immunizations shall be in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3 and 4.4. For students with a medical exemption pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3, the school nurse shall annually review student immunization records to confirm the medical condition for the exemption from immunization continues to be applicable in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b)3.v.

No immunization program, other than that expressly required by the rules of the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services or by order of the New Jersey State Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, may be conducted in district schools without the express approval of the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-20
N.J.S.A. 26:4-6
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 et seq.

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- A. Proof of Immunizations (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.2)
1. The Principal or designee shall not knowingly admit or retain any child whose parent has not submitted acceptable evidence of the child's immunization according to the schedule(s) set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:57 et seq. and section I. of this Regulation, unless the student is provisionally admitted as provided in paragraph B.1. below; or exempted as provided in section C. and D. of this Regulation; and N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3; and 8:57-4.4.
- B. Provisional Admission (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5)
12. A student shall be admitted to school on a provisional basis if a physician, an advanced practice nurse, (a certified registered nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) or health department can document that at least one dose of each required age-appropriate vaccine(s) or antigen(s) has been administered and that the student is in the process of receiving the remaining immunizations.
 2. Provisional admission for children under age five shall be granted in compliance with the specific requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.10 through 4.15 and 4.18 for a period of time consistent with the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the United States Public Health Service or the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) immunization schedule, but shall not exceed seventeen months for completion of all immunization requirements.
 3. Provisional admission for children five years of age or older shall be granted in compliance with the specific requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.10 through 4.14 and 4.16 for a period of time consistent with the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the United States Public Health Service or the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) immunization schedule, but shall not exceed one year for completion of all immunization requirements.
 4. Provisional status shall only be granted one time to children entering or transferring into schools in New Jersey. If a student on provisional status transfers, information on their status will be sent by the original school to the new school pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.7(b).
 5. Children transferring into this district from out-of- State or out-of-country shall be allowed a thirty day grace period in order to obtain past immunization documentation before provisional status shall begin. The thirty day grace period does not apply to students transferring into this school district from within the State of New Jersey.



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6. The school district shall ensure that the required vaccine/antigens are being received on schedule. If at the end of the provisional admission period the child has not completed the required immunizations, the administrative head of the school, preschool, or child care center shall exclude the child from continued school attendance until appropriate documentation has been presented.
 7. Students on provisional status may be temporarily excluded from school during a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or threatened outbreak, as determined by the State Commissioner of Health and Senior Services or designee in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5.
- C. Medical Exemptions (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3)
1. A child shall not be required to have any specific immunization(s) which ~~that~~ are medically contraindicated.
 2. A written statement submitted to the school from a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy or an advanced practice nurse (certified registered nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) in any jurisdiction in the United States indicating that an immunization is medically contraindicated for a specific period of time, and the reasons for the medical contraindication, based on valid medical reasons as enumerated by the ACIP standards or the AAP guidelines, will exempt a student from the specific immunization requirements by law for the stated period of time.
 3. The physician's or an advanced practice nurse's (certified registered nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) statement shall be retained by the school as part of the child's immunization record and shall be reviewed annually. When the child's medical condition permits immunization, this exemption shall thereupon terminate, and the child shall be required to obtain the immunization(s) from which he/she has been exempted.
 4. Those children with medical exemptions to receiving specific immunizations may be excluded from school during a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or threatened outbreak, as determined by the New Jersey Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior Services or designee.
 5. As provided by N.J.S.A. 26:4-6, the school district may, on account of the prevalence of any communicable disease, or to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, prohibit the attendance of any school district teacher or student and specify the time during which the teacher or student shall remain away from school.



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- a. The Department of Health and Senior Services shall provide guidance to the school district on the appropriateness of any such prohibition.
- b. The school district shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 8:61-2.1 regarding attendance at school by students or adults infected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

D. Religious Exemptions (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.4)

1. A child shall be exempted from mandatory immunization if the child's parent submits to the school a written, signed statement requesting an exemption pursuant to the requirements of religious exemptions established at N.J.S.A. 26:1A-9.1, on "the ground that the immunization interferes with the free exercise of the pupil's religious rights."
 - a. The school district is prohibited from exempting a child from mandatory immunization on the sole basis of a moral or philosophical objection to immunization.
2. The written statement signed by the parent(s) will be kept by the school as part of the student's immunization record.
3. The school district may exclude children with religious exemptions from receiving immunization agents from school during a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or threatened outbreak, as determined by the State Commissioner of Health and Senior Services or designee.
4. As provided by N.J.S.A. 26:4-6, the school district may, on account of the prevalence of any communicable disease, or to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, prohibit the attendance of any school district teacher or student and specify the time during which the teacher or student shall remain away from school.
 - a. The Department of Health and Senior Services shall provide guidance to the school district on the appropriateness of any such prohibition.
 - b. The school district shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 8:61-2.1 regarding attendance at school by students or adults infected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

E. Documents Accepted as Evidence of Immunization (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.6)



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1. The following documents shall be accepted as evidence of a child's immunization history; provided that the type of immunization and the date when each immunization was administered is listed.
 - a. An official school record from any school or preschool indicating compliance with immunization requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 et seq.;
 - b. A record from any public health department indicating compliance with immunization requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 et seq.;
 - c. A certificate signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy or an advanced practice nurse (certified registered nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist) in any jurisdiction in the United States indicating compliance with immunization requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 et seq.; or
 - d. The official record of immunization from the New Jersey Immunization Information System indicating compliance with immunization requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 et seq.
2. All immunization records submitted by a parent in a language other than English shall be accompanied by a translation sufficient to determine compliance with the immunization requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 et seq. and this Regulation.
3. Laboratory evidence of protective immunity, as enumerated by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the United States Public Health Service, shall be accepted as evidence of immunization if a parent cannot produce a documented history of immunization.
4. Parental verbal history or recollection of previous immunization is unacceptable documentation or evidence of immunization.

F. Records Required (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.7)

1. The school district shall maintain an official State of New Jersey School Immunization Record for every student. This record shall include the date of each individual immunization and shall be separated from the child's educational record and other medical records for the purpose of immunization record audit.
2. If a child withdraws, is promoted, or transfers to another school district, the immunization record, or a certified copy thereof, along with statements pertaining to religious or medical exemptions and laboratory evidence of immunity, shall be sent to the new school district by the original school district or shall be given to the parent upon request, within twenty-four hours of such a request.



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3. Parental verbal history or recollection of previous immunization is unacceptable documentation or evidence of immunization.
 4. When a child graduates from secondary school, the record, or a certified copy thereof, shall be sent to an institution of higher education or may be given to the parent(s) upon request.
 5. Each child's official New Jersey Immunization Record, or a certified copy thereof, shall be retained by a secondary school for a minimum of four years after the student has left the school. Each child's official New Jersey Immunization Record, or a copy thereof, shall be retained by an elementary school for a minimum of one year after the child has left the school.
 6. Any computer-generated document or list developed by the school district to record immunization information shall be considered a supplement to, not a replacement of, the official New Jersey School Immunization Record.
- G. Reports to be Sent to the Department of Health and Senior Services (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.8)
1. A report of the immunization status of the students in each school shall be sent each year to the State Department of Health and Senior Services by the Principal or designee through mail or submitted electronically in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.8(a)
 2. The form for the report will be provided by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.
 3. The report shall be submitted by January 1 of the respective academic year after a review of all appropriate immunization records.
 4. A copy of this report shall be sent to the local Board of Health in whose jurisdiction the school is located.
 5. If the school does not submit the annual report by January 1 it shall be considered delinquent. A delinquency may be referred to the New Jersey Department of Education or the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, as appropriate based on the length of time delinquent, number of times delinquent, and efforts made toward compliance. The local health department will also be notified of the delinquency.
- H. Records Available for Inspection (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.9)
1. The Principal or designee of each school shall maintain records of their children's immunization status. Upon twenty-four hour notice, these records shall be made available for inspection by authorized representatives of the New Jersey



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Department of Health and Senior Services or the local Board of Health in whose jurisdiction the school is located.

I. Immunization Requirements

1. The immunization requirements for school age children shall be in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 – Immunization of Pupils in School as outlined below:

MINIMAL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN NEW JERSEY N.J.A.C. 8:57-4: Immunization of Pupils in School		
DISEASE(S)	REQUIREMENTS	COMMENTS
DTaP N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.10	(AGE 1-6 YEARS): 4 doses, with one dose given on or after the 4th birthday, OR any 5 doses. (AGE 7-9 YEARS): 3 doses of Td or any previously administered combination of DTP, DTaP, and DT to equal 3 doses.	Any child entering pre-school, Pre-Kindergarten, or Kindergarten needs a minimum of four doses. Students after the seventh birthday should receive adult type Td. DTP/Hib vaccine and DTaP also valid DTPdoses. Children 7 years of age and older, who have not been previously vaccinated with the primary DTaP series, should receive 3 doses of Tetanus, diphtheria (Td) Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.
Tdap N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.10	GRADE 6 (or comparable age level special education program with an unassigned grade): 1 dose	A child does not need a Tdap dose until FIVE years after the last DTP/DTaP or Td dose.
POLIO N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.11	(AGE 1-6 YEARS): 3 doses, with one dose given on or after the 4th birthday, OR any 4 doses. (AGE 7 or OLDER): Any 3 doses.	Either Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) or Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) separately or in combination is acceptable. Polio vaccine is not required of students 18 years of age or older. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.
MEASLES N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.12	If born on or after 1-1-90, 2 doses of a live Measles-containing vaccine.	Any child over 15 months of age entering child care, pre-school, or pre-Kindergarten needs a minimum of 1 dose of measles vaccine. Any child entering Kindergarten needs 2 doses. Intervals between first and second measles/MMR/MR doses cannot be less than 1 month.
RUBELLA and MUMPS N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.13 N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.14	1 dose of live Mumps-containing vaccine on or after 1 st birthday. 1 dose of live Rubella-containing vaccine on or after 1 st birthday.	Any child over 15 months of age entering child care, pre-school, or pre-Kindergarten needs 1 dose of rubella and mumps vaccine. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.
VARICELLA	1 dose on or after the first birthday.	All children 19 months of age and older enrolled into a child care/pre-school



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N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.17		center after 9-1-04 or children born on or after 1-1-98 entering a school for the first time in Kindergarten, Grade 1, or comparable age entry level special education program with an unassigned grade, need 1 dose of varicella vaccine. Laboratory evidence of immunity, physician's statement or a parental statement of previous varicella disease is also acceptable.
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE B (Hib) N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.15	(AGE 2-11 MONTHS) ⁽¹⁾ : 2 doses (AGE 12-59 MONTHS) ⁽²⁾ : 1 dose	Mandated only for children enrolled in child care, pre-school, or pre-Kindergarten. ⁽¹⁾ Minimum of 2 doses of Hib vaccine is needed if between the ages of 2-11 months. ⁽²⁾ Minimum of 1 dose of Hib vaccine is needed after the first birthday. DTP/Hib and Hib/Hep B also valid Hib doses.
HEPATITIS B N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.16	(K-GRADE 12): 3 doses or 2 doses ⁽¹⁾	⁽¹⁾ If a child is between 11-15 years of age and has not received 3 prior doses of Hepatitis B then the child is eligible to receive 2-dose Hepatitis B Adolescent formulation. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.
PNEUMOCOCCAL N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.18	(AGE 2-11 MONTHS) ⁽¹⁾ : 2 doses (AGE 12-59 MONTHS) ⁽²⁾ : 1 dose	Children enrolled in child care or pre-school on or after 9-1-08. ⁽¹⁾ Minimum of 2 doses of Pneumococcal vaccine is needed if between the ages of 2-11 months. ⁽²⁾ Minimum of 1 dose of Pneumococcal vaccine is needed on or after the first birthday.
MENINGOCOCCAL N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.20	(Entering GRADE 6 <i>(or comparable age level Special Ed program with an unassigned grade)</i>): 1 dose ⁽¹⁾ (Entering a four-year college or university, previously unvaccinated and residing in a campus dormitory): 1 dose ⁽²⁾	⁽¹⁾ For students entering Grade 6 on or after 9-1-08 and born on or after 1-1-97. ⁽²⁾ Previously unvaccinated students entering a four-year college or university after 9-1-04 and who reside in a campus dormitory, need 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine. Documentation of one prior dose is acceptable.
INFLUENZA N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.19	(AGES 6-59 MONTHS): 1 dose ANNUALLY	For children enrolled in child care, pre-school or pre-Kindergarten on or after 9-1-08. 1 dose to be given between September 1 and December 31 of each year.



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AGE APPROPRIATE VACCINATIONS (FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS/PRE-SCHOOLS)	
CHILD'S AGE	NUMBER OF DOSES CHILD SHOULD HAVE (BY AGE):
2-3 Months	1 dose DTaP, 1 dose Polio, 1 dose Hib, 1 dose PCV7
4-5 Months	2 doses DTaP, 2 doses Polio, 2 doses Hib, 2 doses PCV7
6-7 Months	3 doses DTaP, 2 doses Polio, 2-3 doses Hib, 2-3 doses PCV7, 1 dose Influenza
8-11 Months	3 doses DTaP, 2 doses Polio, 2-3 doses Hib, 2-3 doses PCV7, 1 dose Influenza
12-14 Months	3 doses DTaP, 2 doses Polio, 1 dose Hib, 2-3 doses PCV7, 1 dose Influenza
15-17 Months	3 doses DTaP, 2 doses Polio, 1 dose MMR, 1 dose Hib, 1 dose PCV7, 1 dose Influenza
18 Months – 4 Years	4 doses DTaP, 3 doses Polio, 1 dose MMR, 1 dose Hib, 1 dose Varicella, 1 dose PCV7, 1 dose Influenza

PROVISIONAL ADMISSION:

Provisional admission allows a child to enter/attend school but must have a minimum of one dose of each of the required vaccines. Students must be actively in the process of completing the series. If a student is less than 5 years of age, they have 17 months to complete the immunization requirements. If a student is 5 years of age and older, they have 12 months to complete the immunization requirements.

GRACE PERIODS:

- 4-day grace period: All vaccines doses administered less than or equal to four days before either the specified minimum age or dose spacing interval shall be counted as valid and shall not require revaccination in order to enter or remain in a school, pre-school or child care facility.
- 30-day grace period: Those children transferring into a New Jersey school, pre-school, or child care center from out of State/out of country may be allowed a 30-day grace period in order to obtain past immunization documentation before provisional status shall begin.

2. The immunization requirements outlined in I.1. above may be revised by Statute, administrative code, and/or the Commission of Health and Senior Services.

J. Emergency Powers of the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services

1. If an outbreak or threatened outbreak—of disease or other public health immunization emergency exists, as determined by the State Commissioner of Health and Senior Services or designee, the State Commissioner or designee may issue either additional immunization requirements to control



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the outbreak or threat of an outbreak or modify immunization requirements to meet the emergency.

2. All children failing to meet the additional immunization requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.22 shall be excluded from school until the outbreak or threatened outbreak is over. These requirements shall remain in effect as outlined in J.3. below and N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.22(c).
3. These requirements or amendments shall remain in effect until such time as the Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior Services or designee determines that an outbreak or a threatened outbreak no longer exists or the emergency is declared over, or for three months after the declaration of the emergency whichever one comes first. The Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior Services or designee may declare a state of emergency if the emergency has not ended.
4. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services or designee may temporarily suspend an immunization requirement for the particular immunization in accordance with the reasons as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.22(d).