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 4th birthday OR any 5 doses†	A total of 3 doses with one of these doses given on or after the 4th birthday OR any 4 doses‡	2 doses§	1 dose‖	3 doses	None	None
2nd – 5th grade		3 doses *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.* †	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 given no earlier than ten years of age¶	1 dose required for children born on or after 1/1/97¶

* Children who did not received any vaccines 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 they attend Kindergarten. However, if one of these 4 doses was given on or after the 4th birthday, an additional dose is not needed for Kindergarten. Alternatively, any 5 doses are acceptable.

Children seven years and older who are not fully immunized with DTaP vaccine should have a history of receiving at least three doses of DTaP, Td, and/or Tdap or should use the CDC Catch-Up schedule to get caught up. Tdap given at ages 10 and older can count towards the sixth-grade school requirement. For CDC schedules and catch-up guidance, visit https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html.

‡**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 they attend Kindergarten. However, if one of these 3 doses was given on or after the 4th birthday, no additional doses are needed for Kindergarten. Alternatively, any 4 doses are acceptable.

§**MMR:** Children are required to receive two doses of measles, one dose of mumps, and one dose of rubella once they enter 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. Children who previously had chickenpox do not need to receive the varicella vaccine as long as a parent/guardian 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, children 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. As of the 2020-2021 school year, children who receive a Tdap before age 10 would need to receive an additional dose to meet NJ's immunization requirements for sixth grade and higher. Note, ACIP no longer recommends a minimum interval between a dose of Tdap and a tetanus-diphtheria-containing vaccine, however, current rule [N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.10(i)] states a minimum of five years must have elapsed from the last tetanus-and diphtheria-containing dose.

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.

This document is meant to be a quick resource. For more information "NJ Immunization Requirements Frequently Asked Questions", please visit https://nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/.

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