FOR CHILD CARE/PRESCHOOL DIRECTORS AND PARENTS: IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

NJ Department of Health (NJDOH)
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program

Summary of NJ Child Care/Preschool Immunization Requirements

Listed in the chart below are the minimum required number of doses your child must have to attend a NJ child care/preschool.* 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.

At this age the child should have received the following vaccines:	**2 months**	**4 months**	**6 months**	**12 months**	**15 months**	**18 months**	**19 months**	**20-59 months**
Diphtheria, tetanus & acellular pertussis (DTaP)	Dose #1	Dose #2	Dose #3			Dose #4		
Inactivated Poliovirus (Polio)	Dose #1	Dose #2				Dose#3		
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Dose #1	Dose #2		1-4 doses† (see footnote)	.	At least 1 dose given on or after the first birthday		
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV 13)	Dose #1	Dose #2		1-4 doses† (see footnote)	At least 1 dose given on or after the first birthday			
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)					Dose #1‡			
Varicella (VAR)							Dose #1 §	
Influenza (IIV; LAIV)			One dose due each year‖					

***Interpretation:** **Children need to receive the minimum number of age-appropriate vaccines prior to entering child care/preschool. For example, a child 2 months of age, must have 1 dose each of DTaP, Polio, Hib, and PCV before being permitted to enter child care/preschool. A child entering at a younger age range than listed above must have proof of receiving vaccines in the previous age bracket. Example: A child entering child care/preschool at 11 months of age, would need at least the following: 3 DTaP, 2 Polio, 2 Hib, and 2 PCV. If a child has not received any vaccines, he/she would need at least one dose of each required vaccine to enter school provisionally and be in the process of receiving the remaining doses as rapidly and as medically feasible. The current seasonal flu vaccine is required every year by December 31 for children 6-59 months of age.**

†***Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and pneumococcal (PCV)** vaccines are special cases. If children started late with these vaccines they may need fewer doses. One dose of each is required on or after the first birthday in all cases.

Please Note: The use of combination vaccines may allow students to receive the 1st birthday booster dose of Hib between 15-18 months of age.

‡**MMR vaccine may be given as early as 12 months of age**, but NJ requires children to receive the vaccine by 15 months of age. Prior to age 15 months, children may enter preschool/child care without a documented dose of MMR.

§**Varicella vaccine may be given as early as 12 months of age**, but NJ requires children to receive the vaccine by 19 months of age. Prior to age 19 months, children may enter preschool/child care without a documented dose of varicella. 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.

|**Seasonal Flu:** The current seasonal influenza vaccine is required every year for those children 6 months through 59 months of age. Children who have not received the flu vaccine by December 31 must be excluded (not allowed to attend child care/preschool) for the duration of influenza season (through March 31), until they receive at least one dose of the influenza vaccine or until they turn 60 months of age. Children entering child care/preschool after December 31, must provide documentation of receiving the current seasonal flu vaccine. Children entering child care/preschool after March 31 are not required to receive the flu vaccine; however, flu season may extend until May and therefore getting a flu vaccine even late in the season is still protective.

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/.

Reviewed: 12/2021

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