

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 pupils against certain diseases in accordance with state statute and rules of the New Jersey State Department of Health.

A pupil shall not knowingly be admitted or retained in school if the parent(s) or legal guardian (s) has not submitted acceptable evidence of the pupil's immunization, according to schedules specified in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 – Immunization of Pupils in School.

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. 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.

No immunization program, other than that expressly required by the rules of the New Jersey State Department of Health or by order of the New Jersey State Commissioner of Health, 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. 8:57-4.1 et seq.

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A. Immunizations on Admission

1. No principal shall knowingly admit or retain any pupil who has not submitted acceptable evidence of immunization according to the schedule set forth at Section E, unless the pupil is provisionally admitted as provided in A.2 or exempted as provided at Section B., N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3, and N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.4
2. A pupil may be admitted to pre-school or 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 of the required age appropriate vaccine(s) or antigen(s) have been administered and that the pupil is in the process of receiving the remaining immunizations.
 - a. A child under five years of age lacking all required vaccines shall have no more than seventeen months to meet all immunization requirements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5(b).
 - b. A child five years of age or older lacking all required vaccines shall have no more than one year to complete all immunization requirements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5(c).
 - c. Provisional status shall only be granted one time to pupils entering or transferring into schools in New Jersey. If a pupil on provisional status transfers information on their status will be sent by the original school to the new school. Provisional status may be extended by a physician for medical reasons as indicated in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3.
 - d. Pupils transferring into this district from another state or 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 pupils transferring from within the State of New Jersey.

- e. The Principal, or designee, shall ensure the provisionally admitted pupil is receiving required immunizations on schedule. If the pupil has not completed the immunizations at the end of the provisional period, the Principal shall exclude the pupil from school until appropriate documentation of completion has been presented.
- f. Pupils 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 or his/her designee.

B. Exemptions from Immunization

- 1. A pupil shall not be required to have any specific immunization(s) that are medically contraindicated.
 - a. A written statement from any 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 reasons as enumerated by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) standards or the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines, will exempt a pupil from the specific immunization requirements of law for the period of time specified in the physician's statement.
 - b. The physician's statement or an advanced practice nurse (certified registered nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) shall be maintained by the school as part of the immunization record of the pupil and shall be reviewed annually.
 - c. When the pupil's medical condition permits immunization, this exemption shall thereupon terminate, and the pupil will be required to obtain the immunizations from which he or she has been exempted.
- 2. A pupil shall be exempted from mandatory immunization if the parent or legal guardian submits a signed statement that explains how the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the pupil's exercise of bona fide religious tenets or practices. General philosophical or moral objection to immunization shall not be sufficient for an exemption on religious grounds.
 - a. The written statement signed by the parent or legal guardian will be kept by the school as part of the pupil's immunization record.

3. Pupils exempted on medical or religious grounds may be temporarily excluded from school during a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or threatened outbreak, as determined by the State Commissioner of Health or his/her designee.

C. Documentation of Immunization

1. Any of the following documents will be accepted as evidence of a pupil's immunization history, provided that the document lists the type of immunization and the specific date (month, day and year) when each immunization was administered.
 - a. An official school record from any school or preschool indicating compliance with immunization requirements;
 - b. A record from any public health department indicating compliance with immunization requirements;
 - 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; or
 - d. The official record of immunization from the New Jersey Immunization Information System indicating compliance with immunization requirements.
2. All immunization records submitted by a parent or legal guardian in a language other than English shall be accompanied by a translation sufficient to determine compliance with the immunization requirements of this regulation.
3. Parental verbal history or recollection or previous immunization is unacceptable documentation or evidence of immunization.

D. Immunization Records

1. Each school shall maintain an official State of New Jersey Immunization Record for every pupil which shall include the date of each individual immunization.

- a. When a child withdraws, is promoted, or transfers to another school, 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 by the original school or shall be given to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) upon request, within twenty-four hours of such a request.
 - b. The immunization record shall be kept separate and apart from the pupil's other medical records for the purpose of immunization record audit.
 - c. Each pupil's immunization record or a copy thereof shall be retained by the high school for a minimum of four years after the pupil has left the school and shall be retained by the elementary school for a minimum of one year after the pupil has left the school.
 - d. Each pupil's immunization record, or a copy thereof, shall be retained by the high school for a minimum of four years after the pupil graduates.
 - e. When a pupil graduates from high school, the record or a certified copy thereof shall be sent to an institution of higher education or may be given to the parent or legal guardian on request.
 - f. Any computer-generated document or list developed to record immunization information will be considered a supplement to, not a replacement of, the official New Jersey Immunization Record.
2. A report of the immunization status of the pupils in each school shall be sent each year to the State Department of Health by the Principal or other person in charge of a school. The form for the report will be provided by the State Department of Health. The report shall be submitted no later than February 1 of the respective academic year. A copy of this report shall be sent to the Westfield Board of Health in whose jurisdiction the school is located. Failure by the district to submit such a report by February 1 may result in a referral to the New Jersey Department of Education and the local health department.
 3. The Principal in charge of a school shall make immunization records available for inspection by authorized representatives of the State Department of Health or the Westfield Board of Health, within twenty-four hours of notification.

E. Immunization Requirements

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:

Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis (DTaP) Vaccine

1. Any child entering pre-school, pre-Kindergarten, or Kindergarten, age 1-6 years, must have 4 doses with 1 dose given on or after the 4th birthday, or any total of 5 doses.
2. Pupils after the seventh birthday, age 7-9 years, should receive 3 doses of adult type Td or any previously administered combination of DTP, DTaP, and DT to equal 3 doses.
3. DTP/Hib vaccine and DTaP are also valid DTP doses.
4. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.

Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine

1. Pupils entering Grade 6 who are 11 years of age or older, must have one dose of this vaccine. This also includes children of comparable age level such as those in a Special Education program with an unassigned grade. Sixth grade pupils less than 11 years of age must receive Tdap once age 11 is reached.
2. A child does not need a Tdap dose until FIVE years after the last DTP/DTaP or Td dose.

Poliomyelitis Vaccine

1. Any child in pre-school must receive 3 doses.
2. Any child in kindergarten must receive 3 doses, with one dose given on or after the 4th birthday, or any total of 4 doses.
3. Pupils after the seventh birthday or older should receive any 3 doses.
4. Only the following conditions would satisfy the polio vaccination requirements for school attendance in NJ: Oral Poliovirus Vaccine (OPV) doses given before April 1, 2016 or Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) doses.
5. Laboratory evidence of polio immunity is no longer acceptable. However, previous serologic testing, which was obtained when testing for type 2 poliovirus was still available in the U.S., will still be accepted as evidence of polio immunity if the test documents a separate positive result for each of the three poliovirus serotypes.

Measles Vaccine

1. If a child is born on or after 1-1 90, 2 doses of a live Measles-containing vaccine is required.
2. Any child over 15 months of age entering pre-school or pre-Kindergarten needs a minimum of 1 dose of measles vaccine.
3. Any child entering Kindergarten needs 2 doses of measles vaccine.
4. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.

Rubella Vaccine

1. All children must receive 1 dose of live Rubella-containing vaccine.
2. Any child over 15 months of age entering pre-school or pre-Kindergarten needs 1 dose of Rubella vaccine.
3. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.

Mumps Vaccine

1. All children must receive 1 dose of live Mumps-containing vaccine.
2. Any child over 15 months of age entering pre-school or pre-Kindergarten needs 1 dose of Mumps vaccine.
3. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.

Varicella Vaccine

1. One dose of Varicella vaccine is required on or after the first birthday.
2. All children 19 months of age and older enrolled into a pre-school center or 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.
3. Laboratory evidence of immunity is acceptable.
4. A physician's statement or a parental statement of previous varicella disease is also acceptable as evidence of immunity.

Haemophilus Influenzae B (Hib)

1. This vaccine is mandated only for children, age 12 -59 months, enrolled in pre-school, or pre-Kindergarten. A minimum of 1 dose of Hib vaccine is needed after the first birthday.
2. DTP/Hib and Hib/Hep B are also valid Hib doses.

Hepatitis B

1. The Hepatitis B vaccine is required for all children from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in 3 doses.
2. 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.
3. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.

Pneumococcal Vaccine

1. Children, 12 -59 months of age, enrolled in pre-school must have a minimum of one dose of Pneumococcal vaccine on or after the first birthday.

Meningococcal Vaccine

1. All children entering Grade 6 or of comparable age level in Special Ed programs with an unassigned grade must receive one dose.
2. The vaccine is to be given to pupils entering Grade 6 who are 11 years of age or older. Sixth grade pupils who are less than 11 years must receive meningococcal vaccine once age 11 is reached.

Influenza Vaccine

1. One dose of Influenza vaccine is given annually to children age 6-59 months of age.
2. For children enrolled in pre-school or pre-Kindergarten, 1 dose is to be given between September 1 and December 31 of each year.

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. Pupils must be actively in the process of completing the series. If a pupil is less than 5 years of age, they have 17 months to complete the immunization requirements.

If a pupil 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.

F. Emergency Powers of the Commissioner of Health

1. If a threatened outbreak, or outbreak of disease, or other public health immunization emergency exists, as determined by the State Commissioner of Health or designee, all pupils with provisional, religious, or medical exemptions (which relate to the specific disease threatening or occurring) shall be excluded from school. If these pupils become immunized or produce serologic evidence of immunity to the specific disease the pupil may immediately be readmitted to school.
2. If a threatened outbreak, or outbreak of disease or other public health immunization emergency exists, as determined by the State Commissioner of Health or designee, the State Commissioner or designee may issue either additional immunization requirements to control the outbreak or threat of an outbreak or modify immunization requirements to meet the emergency.
 - a. 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 N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.22(c).
3. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services or designee may temporarily suspend an immunization requirement in accordance with the reasons as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.22(d).