

FOR SCHOOLS AND PARENTS: K-12 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS



**NJ Department of Health
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program**

New Jersey Minimum Immunization Requirements for Kindergarten-Grade 12 Attendance
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 Immunization of Pupils in School

Guide for checking compliance

- Step 1: Each child attending/enrolling must present documentation of immunizations or valid medical or religious exemption to vaccines. In order to allow a child to enter school, he/she must have at least one dose of each age-appropriate required vaccine.
- Step 2: Determine child's present grade level.
- Step 3: Compare the child's record with the requirements listed on the chart below.

| 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 (Chickpox) | Hepatitis B | Meningococcal | Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) |
| Kindergarten -- 1 st 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 |
| 2 nd -- 5 th 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 Tetanus, diphtheria (Td)</i> | 3 doses | 2 doses | 1 dose | 3 doses | None | None |
| 6 th grade and higher | 3 doses | 3 doses | 2 doses | 1 dose required for children born on or after 1/1/98 [§] | 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** |

Additional vaccines are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The chart above lists only the vaccines that are required for school attendance in NJ. Please note that unvaccinated children, including those with medical and/or religious exemptions, may be excluded from school during a vaccine preventable disease outbreak or threatened outbreak to ensure public health safety.

For the complete CDC Recommended Immunization Schedule, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>.

* **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 after the 4th birthday, this child will not need an additional dose for Kindergarten. Children will need 5 doses if all doses were administered prior to the 4th birthday in order to enter Kindergarten.

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 after the 4th birthday, this child will not need an additional dose for Kindergarten. Children will need 4 doses if all doses were administered prior to the 4th birthday.

† 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.

¶ Two doses of hepatitis B vaccine is acceptable if child received the vaccine between 11 – 15 yrs. of age AND the vaccine is identified as Adolescent Formulation. Children who present documented laboratory evidence of hepatitis B disease or immunity, constituting a medical exemption, shall not be required to receive hepatitis B vaccine.

** Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines are required for all entering 6th graders who are 11 years of age or older; 6th graders < 11 years must receive Tdap and meningococcal vaccines once age 11 is reached.

For the complete list of "NJ Immunization Requirements Frequently Asked Questions", please visit <http://nj.gov/health/cd/imm.shtml>.