



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

www.nj.gov/health

HEATHER HOWARD
Commissioner

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Dear Colleague/Parent:

Effective September 1, 2008, four vaccines were added to the current rule on minimum immunization requirements for school attendance. Child care centers and preschools must now require proof of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine series and an annual influenza vaccine. For sixth grade students, schools must now require proof of one dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine and one dose of the Tdap vaccine. The amended regulations in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 state the following:

8:57-4.10 Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine

- (h) Every child born on or after January 1, 1997, and entering or attending Grade Six, or a comparable age level special education program with an unassigned grade on or after September 1, 2008, shall have received one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) given no earlier than the 10th birthday.
- (i) Children entering or attending Grade Six on or after September 1, 2008, who received a Td booster dose less than five years prior to entry or attendance shall not be required to receive a Tdap dose until five years have elapsed from the last DTP/DTaP or Td dose.
- (j) Children born on or after January 1, 1997, and transferring into a New Jersey school from another state or country after September 1, 2008, shall have received one dose of Tdap, provided at least five years have elapsed from the last documented Td dose.

8:57-4.18 Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

- (a) Every child two months through 11 months of age enrolling in or attending any licensed child care center or preschool facility on or after September 1, 2008, shall have received a minimum of two age-appropriate doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), or fewer as medically-appropriate for the child's age according to the ACIP recommendations, incorporated herein by reference, as amended and supplemented.
- (b) Every child 12 months through 59 months of age enrolling in or attending a licensed child care center on or after September 1, 2008, shall have received at least one dose of PCV on or after their first birthday.

*Please note: Preschool was left out in the current rules that were published in the *New Jersey Register* on January 7, 2008. NJDHSS plans to correct the error in the upcoming rulemaking.

8:57-4.19 Influenza vaccine

Children six months through 59 months of age attending any licensed child care center or preschool facility on or after September 1, 2008, shall annually receive at least one dose of influenza vaccine between September 1 and December 31 of each year.

8:57-4.20 Meningococcal vaccine

- (a) Every child born on or after January 1, 1997, and entering or attending Grade Six or a comparable age level special education program with an unassigned grade on or after September 1, 2008, shall have received one dose of a meningococcal-containing vaccine, such as the medically-preferred meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

**Please note: This applies to students when they turn 11 years of age and attending Grade Six.*

- (b) Every child born on or after January 1, 1997, and transferring into a New Jersey school from another state or country on or after September 1, 2008, shall have received one dose of meningococcal vaccine.

8:57-4.23 Optimal immunization recommendations – 4 Day Grace Period

- (b) All vaccine doses included within, and mandated by, this subchapter that are administered less than or equal to four days before either the specified product label 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, preschool, or licensed child care facility.

We encourage both private and Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program providers who provide care to commercially insured children to order enough vaccine to meet the higher demand anticipated due to the new vaccine requirements.

Schools are encouraged to send a notice home to parents informing them of these requirements to assure compliance at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

To access N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 *Immunization for Pupils in School* which provides information on all vaccination requirements go to: <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/chap14.pdf> An immunization guidance grid is also available on-line at <http://nj.gov/health/forms/imm-7.pdf>

As parents, you are your child's best advocate for a healthy and fun summer. Please remember to continue to teach your child good health habits that prevent the spread of illness:

- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Stay home from gatherings (camps, daycare, parks, pools) when you have a fever for at least 7 days or 2 days after symptoms are over.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at (609) 588-7512.

Sincerely,



Christina Tan, MD
State Epidemiologist
Public Health Services Branch

Enclosure

cc: B. Montana
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Response to Frequently Asked Questions

Preschool and Child care

Influenza:

In the 2009-2010 school year, all pupils aged 6-59 months must receive one dose of flu vaccine by December 31st. Pupils who are not in compliance by this due date must be excluded from school for the duration of influenza season (through March 31st) or until they receive at least one dose of the influenza vaccine.

Pupils enrolling after the December 31st deadline are still required to receive flu vaccine through March 31st. Upon enrolling, the pupil will have 2 weeks to show documentation of receiving one dose of flu vaccine. Pupils enrolling in school after March 31st are not required to get vaccinated, but since flu season may extend until May getting flu vaccine even late in the season is still protective. Pupils under the age of 9 who have never received flu vaccine are recommended to receive 2 doses given 6-10 weeks apart.

Information on the H1N1 Novel Influenza vaccine and its availability will be accessible on the Department of Health and Senior Services website at: <http://nj.gov/health/> in the near future. Please check the website periodically for updates. The Department will not require the receipt of the H1N1 Novel Influenza vaccine to meet the influenza mandate. Receipt of either the Seasonal Influenza vaccine or H1N1 Novel Influenza vaccine will be considered in compliance with the Influenza vaccine mandate.

Pneumococcal:

All pupils in licensed childcare or preschool facilities are required to receive age appropriate doses of pneumococcal vaccine. Pupils between the ages of 2-11 months will be required to receive a minimum of two age appropriate doses and pupils 12-59 months of age will be required to receive a minimum of one dose on or after the first birthday. Although, the regulations require minimum requirements, pneumococcal vaccination is a four dose series and it is recommended that all children in this age group receive the complete series for optimal protection.

6th Grade:

Tdap and Meningococcal:

Pupils born on or after January 1, 1997 entering sixth grade in the 2009-2010 school year will be required to receive both Tdap and Meningococcal vaccine prior to the first day of school. Pupils that are 10 years old when entering sixth grade will not be required to receive the preferred Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine, Menactra until they turn 11 years of age. They will have to show documentation of receiving the vaccine within 2 weeks of their 11th birthday. Tdap can be given at the earliest age of 10 depending on the availability of vaccine at a provider's practice. If the pupil's physician only carries Adacel then the child will not be required to receive it until 11 years of age. If the physician carries Boostrix then we encourage them to use it for their 10 year olds.

Tdap vaccine and meningococcal vaccine requirements, respectively, only apply to children in Grade Six or a higher level grade level. The language has been amended for students transferring into a New Jersey school from out-of-state or out-of-country. It now states the following:

Every child born on or after January 1, 1997 attending or transferring into a New Jersey school at Grade Six or a higher grade level from another state or country on or after September 1, 2008 shall have received one dose of meningococcal vaccine. Children born on or after January 1, 1997 attending or transferring into a New Jersey school at Grade Six or a higher grade level from another state or country on or after September 1, 2008 shall have received one dose of Tdap, provided at least five years have elapsed from the last documented Td dose.