



New Jersey School Vaccine Requirements for Child Care & Preschool



New Jersey requires children attending child care centers and preschools to meet **minimum immunization requirements**. These vaccines help protect children from serious illnesses that can easily spread in group settings, where young children are in close contact with one another. For the best protection, children should follow the [AAP childhood schedule](#).

The information below shows the number of vaccine doses required based on a child's age at entry. Fewer doses may be needed than what is listed if the child is behind schedule. Talk to your child's health care provider for details.

The notes on the second page will provide additional information and resources.

By 3 Months

Number of doses

- 1 DTaP
- 1 IPV/OPV
- 1 Hib
- 1 PCV

By 5 Months

Number of doses

- 2 DTaP
- 2 IPV/OPV
- 2 Hib
- 2 PCV

By 7 Months

Number of doses

- 3 DTaP
- 2 IPV/OPV
- 2-3 Hib
- 3 PCV
- 1 Flu*

***Flu vaccine is due every year for children six months and older by November 30.**

The number of vaccines listed for each age shows the total doses required by that age, not additional doses. For example, 3 DTaP doses are required by 7 months and 4 total doses by 19 months.

By 16 Months

Number of doses

- 3 DTaP
- 2 IPV/OPV
- 3-4 Hib
- 4 PCV
- 1 Flu
- 1 MMR
- 1 VAR

By 19 Months

Number of doses

- 4 DTaP
- 3 IPV
- 3-4 Hib
- 4 PCV
- 1 Flu
- 1 MMR
- 1 VAR

Vaccine Key

- DTaP:** Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis
- Hib:** *Haemophilus influenzae* type b
- Flu:** Influenza
- IPV/OPV:** Inactivated Polio Vaccine/Oral Polio Vaccine
- MMR:** Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
- PCV:** Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine
- VAR:** Varicella

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This is a summary document. New Jersey's minimum immunization requirements are based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), [AAP childhood schedule](#).

Before entering child care/preschool: All children will need to show proof of receiving at least one dose of each required vaccine; this is called provisional admission. A child entering school in a time frame not listed would be required to receive the vaccines in the previous age group. For example, a two-month-old would need to receive the same number of doses as a three-month-old to attend a child care and preschool facility.

Upon attendance: All children will need to receive vaccines by the time frames listed on page one. The AAP immunization schedule provides age ranges for certain vaccines. For example:

- DTaP is recommended at 15 through 18 months.
- IPV (polio) is recommended at 6 through 18 months.
- MMR and Varicella are recommended at 12 through 15 months.

Because these recommendations are given as ranges, children may receive vaccines at any point within that window. Some children receive doses earlier in the recommended range, depending on their well-child visit schedule. New Jersey child care and preschool requirements are structured to allow families the full recommended time frame to complete doses. For example, a child may receive three doses of IPV as early as six months of age. However, because the recommended window for the third IPV dose is 6-18 months, New Jersey would not require documentation of that third dose until after the full window has passed (by 19 months), allowing families the entire recommended period to meet the requirement.

Children who are not up to date with the required vaccines will be required to follow the catch-up immunization schedule; parents should speak to their health care provider to help their children get caught up. Fewer doses may be needed than what is listed if the child is behind schedule.

Medical and religious exemptions (reasons for not receiving vaccines) are detailed in the Immunization of Children in Child Care Centers and Schools regulations. Instructions for viewing the regulations are available at nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/rcode. Another resource is the "NJ Immunization Requirements Frequently Asked Questions," available at nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements.

IPV/OPV: OPV is not recommended for use, nor is it available in the United States. However, OPV may be utilized in other countries. Doses are only accepted if given before April 2016. Children who receive OPV doses after April 2016 must receive IPV doses instead. The third dose of IPV/OPV can be given as early as six months, but is required by 19 months.

Hib: By six months, children need at least two doses of Hib, but some children may have three doses by six months, depending on the vaccine brand they received.

Hib/PCV: Vaccine doses may be acceptable with fewer than listed, depending on when the vaccines were given and the vaccine type. Refer to the recommended/catch-up schedule. In all instances, one or more doses must be administered on or after the first birthday.

Flu: One dose of flu vaccine is due every year by November 30 for all children six months of age and older enrolled in child care or preschool.

MMR: Children can receive this vaccine as early as 12 months, but it is required for child care/preschool attendance by 16 months.

Varicella (Chickenpox): Children can receive this vaccine as early as 12 months, but it is required for child care/preschool attendance by 16 months.

This is a summary document. New Jersey's minimum immunization requirements are based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), [AAP childhood schedule](#). Vaccines are required at the earliest age of school entry. Children who are not up to date with the required vaccines will be required to follow the catch-up immunization schedule; parents should speak to their health care provider to help their children get caught up.

Medical and religious exemptions (reasons for not receiving vaccines) are detailed in the Immunization of Children in Child Care Centers and Schools regulations. Instructions for viewing the regulations are available at nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/acode/. Another resource is the "NJ Immunization Requirements Frequently Asked Questions", available at nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/.

***DTaP/Td/Tdap**

Kindergarten or Grade 1: By the time children start school, they need 4 or 5 DTaP doses, depending on their age when they began the vaccination series. At least one dose must be given on or after their 4th birthday.

Grades 2–6: A primary series means completing all the beginning doses of a vaccine. Children age 7 or older who are not up to date need to either finish their Td/Tdap vaccine series or show they have already had at least 3 total doses of DTaP, Td, or Tdap with one dose on or after the 4th birthday. Your health care provider can help your child get caught up by using the catch-up schedule.

Grades 7 and higher: Students must have one Tdap dose given at age 10 or older and show proof that they completed the primary series.

Kindergarten through grade 12

IPV/OPV: OPV is not recommended for use, nor is it available in the United States. However, OPV may be utilized in other countries. Doses are only accepted if given before April 2016. Children who receive OPV doses after April 2016 must receive IPV doses instead. At least one dose must be given on or after their 4th birthday. Previously polio vaccine doses were not required for those 18 years of age and older; however, those 18 and older must now meet the requirements for school attendance.

MMR: Two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella.

Varicella: One dose of varicella is required. Two doses are recommended by AAP, but not required for school attendance.

Hep B: 3 doses or an approved two-dose series.

Meningococcal ACWY: One dose of MenACWY is required for those ages 10 and older at grade 7 and higher. Doses of MenACWY given before age 10 would need to be repeated.