New Jersey School (K-12) Vaccine Requirements

New Jersey requires children attending school to meet minimum immunization requirements. These vaccines help protect children from serious illnesses that can easily spread in group settings, where they are in close contact with one another. For the best protection, children should follow the AAP childhood schedule.

The table below shows the number of vaccine doses required based on the child's grade of entry. Fewer doses may be needed than what is listed if the child is behind schedule. Talk to your child's doctor for details.

	Kindergarten/Grade 1 (Entry Grade)	**Grades 2-6**	**Grades 7-12**
DTaP (for children under age 7) **Td/Tdap** (for children 7 and older)	**Primary Series:** 4 or 5 doses (at least one dose on or after the 4th birthday)	Proof of completing primary series (at least one dose on or after the 4th birthday)	Proof of completing primary series **AND** at least 1 Tdap at age 10 or older.
IPV/OPV	Total of 3 or 4 doses (at least one dose given on or after the 4th birthday)		
MMR	Total of 2 doses		
VAR	Total of 1 dose		
Hep B	Total of 3 doses (or an approved two-dose series)		
Men ACWY	None	None	Total of 1 dose which must be given at age 10 and older

Vaccine Key

DTaP: Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (whooping cough)

Td: Tetanus and diphtheria

Tdap: Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis

IPV/OPV: Inactivated Polio Vaccine and Oral Polio Vaccine

MMR: Measles, Mumps, and Rubella

VAR: Varicella

Hep B: Hepatitis B

MenACWY: Meningococcal ACWY

NJHealth New Jersey Department of Health

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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. 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 an 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.