



Provisional Admission Technical Guidance

Q: What is Provisional Admission?

A: Provisional admission allows a child to enter/attend school after having received a minimum of one dose of each of the required vaccines. Pupils must be actively in the process of completing the series and on schedule to receive subsequent doses **as rapidly as medically feasible**. A school nurse or school administrator shall review the immunization status of a provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccine(s).

Provisional status can only be granted one time to students entering or transferring into schools, preschools, or child care centers in New Jersey. Information on this status will need to be sent by the original school to the new school.

Students who are 4 months through 18 years whose vaccinations have been delayed or who are more than one month behind, need to follow the minimum age and dose spacing intervals in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommended Catch-Up Schedule, <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/catchup-schedule-pr.pdf>

Q: How do you define, “as rapidly as medically feasible”?

A: The phrase, “as rapidly as medically feasible” is in reference to meeting the minimum age and dose spacing intervals in accordance with the ACIP Recommended Catch-Up Immunization Schedule. Please see the following example:

Example: A child was provisionally admitted to Kindergarten because he had received one dose of hepatitis B vaccine (NJ requires three doses of hepatitis B vaccine for school attendance). The school nurse/administrator would need to assess when the next dose in the vaccine series is due by consulting the ACIP Recommended Catch-Up Immunization Schedule. According to this schedule, the minimum dose spacing interval between hepatitis B dose one and two is four weeks. Therefore, this child will need to receive the second dose of hepatitis B vaccine once four weeks has elapsed from his first dose. It would not be medically feasible for the child to receive this dose prior to four weeks. If the minimum interval has exceeded (i.e. the child has not shown documentation of receiving the second dose after the four weeks have elapsed), this student would be considered out of compliance and may not be allowed to attend school until he receives this required dose.

Q: To whom does the 30-Day Grace Period apply?

A: According to the New Jersey immunization regulations, the 30-day grace period only applies to transfer students, coming from out of state/out of country. This does not apply to *in-state* transfer students.

Q: Can you please explain the 30-day grace period?

A: Students entering a NJ school **from out of state or out of country** are allowed up to 30 days to provide proof of immunization history before their provisional status begins. Please review the following scenarios for further clarification:

- If after the 30 days have elapsed and no documentation of previous vaccination is provided; the child may not attend school until one dose of all age-appropriate required vaccines are received before being provisionally admitted.
- If schools are notified within the 30 days that documentation cannot be provided; the child may continue attending school since the 30 days have not elapsed. However, it is the responsibility of the school nurse or person in charge of the school to inform the parents that their child must receive one dose of all age-appropriate required vaccines before provisional status begins.