



Summary of Changes to N.J.A.C. 8:57-3 and 8:57-4

On January 20, 2026, the Department adopted amendments to N.J.A.C. 8:57-3, the New Jersey Immunization Information System, and 8:57-4, Immunization of Children in Child Care Centers and Schools. Below is a summary of the amendments. For more details review the administrative code, the immunization charts, and child care centers and school implementation guidance in the resource section.

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Expanded NJIIS Reporting** — All vaccines for individuals from birth–17 must now be reported to NJIIS unless a parent/guardian opts out (expanding to ages 18–19 in January 2027 and 19+ in July 2027).
- **School Immunization Rules Modernized** — Requirements now reference nationally recommended schedules.
- **Translation of Foreign Records** — The translator must sign and date a certification that includes the required statement outlined in the rules.
- **New Reporting Platform** — The Annual Immunization Status Report (ASR) and Local Health Department (LHD) Immunization Audit Report have been updated and are now available through the NJIIS School Module Platform. The ASR deadline is now December 1.

VACCINE-SPECIFIC HIGHLIGHTS

Vaccine	Key Change / Clarification
MMR	• One dose required by 16 months for child care center enrollment; • Second dose required at kindergarten/1st-grade entry.
Varicella	• One dose required by 16 months for child care center enrollment; • Parent-reported chickenpox history is no longer accepted. Only documented vaccination, lab evidence, or provider disease confirmation is acceptable.
Influenza	• One dose required annually for children 6 months and older (no upper age limit) attending a child care center. • Compliance deadline is now Nov. 30.
Hepatitis B	• Required vaccine series for children in school (K-12).
Hib, PCV	• Number of doses depend on age at child care entry. • Minimum of one dose must be after the 1st birthday.
DTaP, Polio	• Number of doses depends on age at child care/school entry. ◦ Previous rule language of alternatively any five DTaP or four Polio doses no longer applies. • Minimum of one dose required for all <u>new enrollees</u> on or after the 4th birthday. ◦ Students who met the previous requirements remain compliant, even if all doses were given before age four. ◦ Required for school entry (Kindergarten or Grade 1).
Tdap & Meningococcal	• One dose required for 7th-grade entry (previously 6th grade). • The prior 5-year interval before a Td/Tdap booster has been removed to align with national schedules.

EXEMPTIONS & PROVISIONAL ADMISSION

- **Exemption types** — Medical and religious exemptions are permissible exemptions in New Jersey; philosophical, moral, or personal belief exemptions are not permitted.
- **Religious exemptions** — No major changes to the exemption process or criteria. Exemptions may now indicate whether they apply to all vaccines or only specific ones.
- **Medical exemptions** — Must be signed by a health care provider based on AAP-recognized contraindications and precautions submitted on NJDOH [IMM-53](#) form.
- **Provisional admission** — Students may be admitted provisionally with at least one age-appropriate dose per required vaccine, if following the catch-up schedule, and no more than 14 days overdue.

RESOURCES

- **Instructions for viewing N.J.A.C. 8:57 rules:** nj.gov/health/cd/documents/instructions_viewing_regulations.pdf
- **Immunization Charts and Child Care Centers and School Implementation Guidance:** nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/

Questions? Contact the NJDOH Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at (609) 826-4861.