

Glossary of Terms

Fully Vaccinated

Students who meet all the minimum immunization requirements as set forth in the regulations, N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 Immunization of Pupils in School.

Provisional Status

Students need to be fully vaccinated, exempted, or in provisional status in order to attend a New Jersey childcare facility, preschool, or school. To be considered “provisional,” a student must have received a minimum of one dose of each required vaccine and must be actively in the process of completing the series in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's (ACIP) recommended minimum interval catch-up schedule.

The NJDOH Annual Immunization Status Report (ASR) describes the immunization status of students by December 31st of the respective school year, per self-reported data by schools, preschools, and child-care facilities. The reporting time frame is from September 1st to December 31st. During this time period, students can only be counted one time for the ASR and will remain provisional in our records even after they receive vaccines after December 31st. It is the responsibility of the individual school to ensure pupils complete vaccination series as specified in the CDC/catch-up schedule. It is the responsibility of Local Health Departments to audit the schools in their jurisdiction to ensure that the schools are in compliance with the NJ immunization requirements.

Medical Exemption

A medical exemption is granted if a written statement indicates that an immunization is medically contraindicated for a specific period of time, and the reason(s) for the medical contraindication is/are based upon valid medical reasons as enumerated by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) or the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines. All medical exemptions must be signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy or an advanced practice nurse (certified registered nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist).

Religious Exemption

A religious exemption is granted by the childcare, preschool, or school if a written statement is signed by the parent or guardian of the pupil indicating that the proposed immunization interferes with the free exercise of the pupil's religious rights.

Out of Compliance

Pupils are out of compliance if they do not meet criteria for fully vaccinated, provisional status, medical exemption, or religious exemption. A pupil should also be considered out of compliance if their immunization status is unknown.