

Influenza Fact Sheet

Is the seasonal influenza vaccine a requirement for childcare and preschool?

Yes. Children six months through 59 months of age attending any child-care center or preschool facility on or after September 1, 2008, shall annually receive at least one dose of the influenza vaccine between September 1 and December 31 of each year.

Who is exempt from receiving the influenza vaccine?

New Jersey allows for 2 types of exemptions for Influenza vaccination, religious or medical. All children six months of age and older are required to receive the influenza vaccine unless they have a valid medical or religious exemption on file. Philosophical exemptions are not acceptable.

When should a child get the influenza vaccine?

The yearly seasonal Influenza vaccination should begin in September, or as soon as the seasonal influenza vaccine is available and continue throughout the influenza season. Children have until December 31st to come into compliance.

Is the influenza vaccine required after January 1st for children coming in at that time or who have not received it between Sept. 1- Dec. 31 of the prior year?

Yes, the influenza vaccine is still required for children after Dec 31st until March 31st. Getting an influenza vaccine even late in the season is protective.

What happens to those children that do not get vaccinated?

Children who do not receive the influenza vaccine by December 31st will be excluded from school for the duration of the influenza season (through March 31st) or until they receive at least one dose of the influenza vaccine or until they turn 60 months of age.

What is the influenza vaccine availability?

Every district should have a district vaccine delivery plan for helping families get the influenza vaccine and prevent unnecessary exclusions from school. The vaccine will be available via clinics organized by local health departments, healthcare provider offices, schools, and other private settings, such as pharmacies and workplaces. For more information, contact your local health department or their local pharmacy.

Where can I find additional information?

The New Jersey Department of Health, Communicable Disease Service has an extensive influenza section in their FAQs on their website. You can access this information at:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/flu.shtml>