



College Immunization Status Summary Report Academic Year 2025

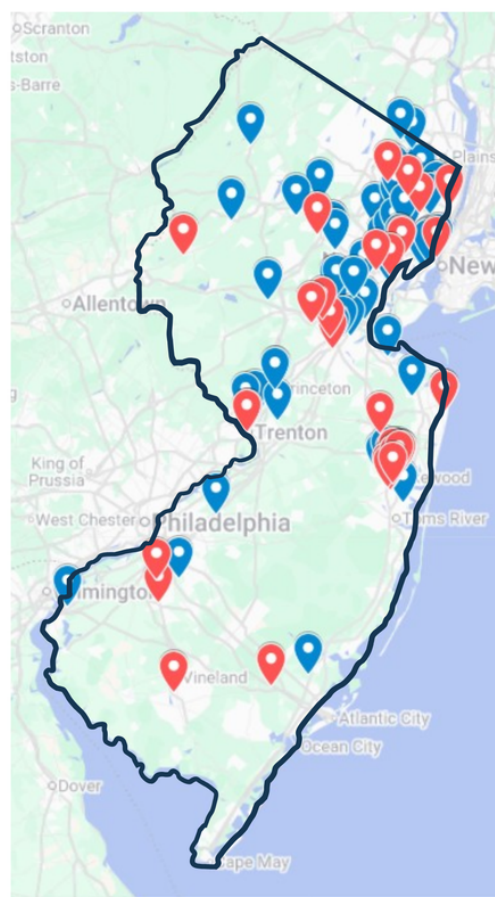
Fall 2026

INTRODUCTION

The New Jersey “College Immunization Law” mandates that colleges and universities in New Jersey (NJ) enforce immunization requirements for newly enrolled students. As per N.J.A.C. 8:57-6.1 to 6.16, all new students are required to provide valid proof of immunization with the following vaccines: measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), hepatitis B (Hep B), and meningococcal disease (MenACWY) vaccines based on the recommended immunization schedule. Compliance with these regulations is monitored by educational institutions as per Section 18A:61D-1 of the higher education statute.

Data is required to be collected annually for the college status report. This year, the data was collected between December 1, 2025, and February 1, 2026. This report summarizes the findings of vaccination coverage by antigen as reported by NJ’s institutes of higher education (IHEs) and examines whether the immunization requirements are being met. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) categorizes NJ IHEs into the following groups: community colleges, graduate degree-granting independent institutions, independent four-year colleges, independent two-year colleges, proprietary institutions with degree-granting authority, public research universities, state colleges and universities, and Talmudic/theological seminaries.

IHEs, with their high concentration of students from various backgrounds, congregating and interacting closely, are particularly susceptible to the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases. Therefore, the prioritization of immunizations in these environments is of paramount importance for the following reasons: prevention of disease outbreaks, minimization of educational disruptions, protection of vulnerable individuals, contribution to global public health, and promotion of proactive health care.



-  Reporting Institutions
-  Non-Reporting Institutions

KEY FINDINGS

- A total of **101*** licensed IHEs were reported in 2025.
- This year, **66** IHEs self-reported to the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), resulting in a **65%** reporting rate, with a total of 367,031* students enrolled in the fall.

Provided below are the key points of reporting IHEs:

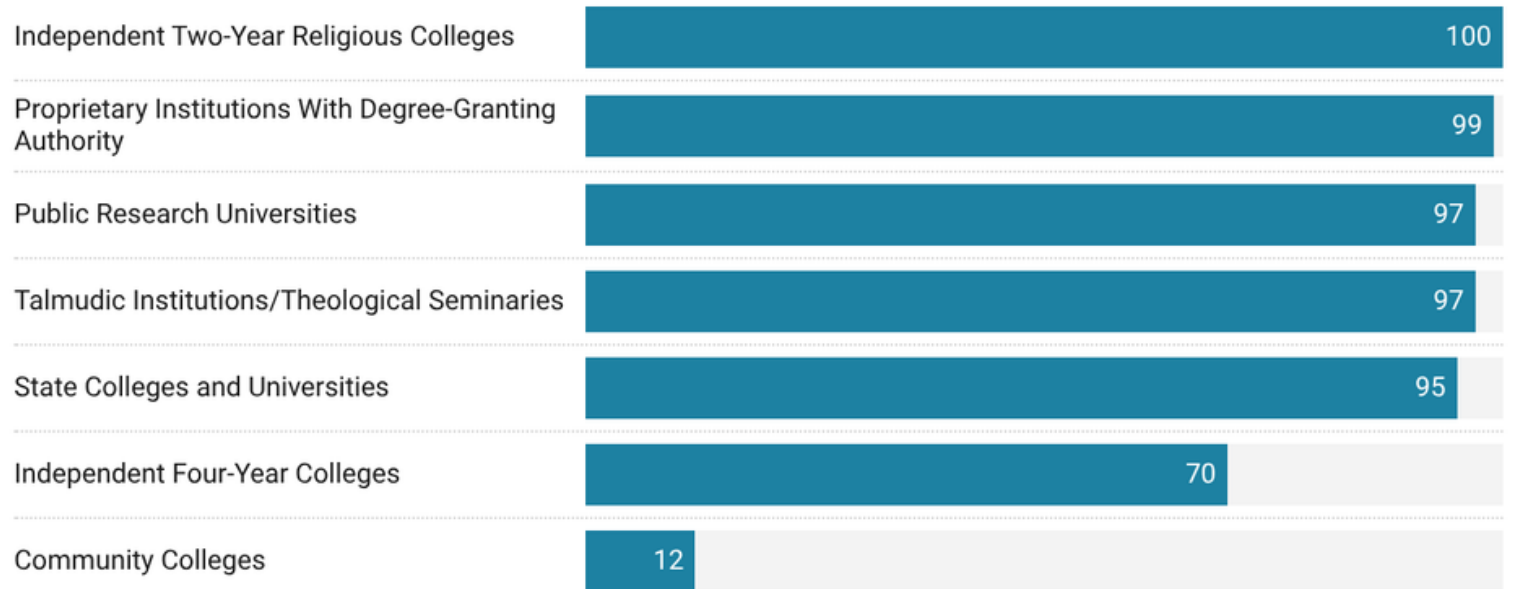
- Participation was high across most institution types, with response rates ranging from **50% to 100%**, with the exception of Talmudic/theological seminaries (**31%**).
- State colleges and universities achieved full participation, while community colleges (**82%**) and independent four-year colleges (**81%**) also demonstrated strong engagement.
- Proprietary degree-granting institutions had a participation rate of **79%**, followed closely by public research universities at **75%**, which represented the largest student population (121,948 students*).

*Data accurate as of October 2025. The number of institutes of higher education and student population sizes in New Jersey may change based on accreditation status and enrollment numbers.

Percentage of Students Meeting Requirement by Antigen Type



Percentage of Students Meeting All Three Requirements by Institution Type



Graphs created by Datawrapper

The meningococcal vaccine had the lowest student coverage rate (**64%**), compared with MMR (**77%**) and hepatitis B (**74%**). Most institution types achieved an average of **96%** coverage among students meeting all three immunization requirements. Community colleges and independent four-year colleges were the notable exceptions, reporting lower coverage.

Note: Graduate degree-granting independent institutions were excluded from this graph because no students were reported as meeting all three immunization requirements, preventing a valid coverage estimate from being calculated.

MEASLES, MUMPS, AND RUBELLA (MMR)

The MMR vaccine protects against measles, mumps, and rubella. All full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students aged 30 or younger enrolled in a degree program must submit documentation of MMR vaccination or provide evidence of immunity. Individuals born before 1957 are exempt, likely due to presumed natural immunity from childhood exposure.

Requirement: New students must receive two doses of the measles vaccine, one dose of the mumps vaccine, and one dose of the rubella vaccine or a combination vaccine that includes all three.

For MMR Immunization Requirements in Higher Education, refer to N.J.A.C 8:57-6.5,6.6,6.7.

Key Findings

High Vaccination Rates Among Talmudic/theological, independent four-year, and state colleges and universities:

- MMR vaccination coverage is strong at Talmudic/theological seminaries (**99%**), independent four-year colleges (**94%**), and state colleges and universities (**93%**), reflecting high compliance with immunization requirements.

Low vaccination rates at community colleges:

- In contrast, only **31%** of students at community colleges meet the MMR requirement, with a high non-compliance rate of **60%**, highlighting the need for targeted outreach and intervention.

Exemption rates remain low:

- Medical and religious exemptions are minimal across all institution types, suggesting that most non-compliance is possibly due to missing documentation or lack of follow-through, rather than formal exemptions.

Note: The high MMR vaccination coverage observed among graduate degree-granting independent institutions and independent two-year religious colleges should be interpreted in the context of their relatively small student populations.

MMR Vaccination Coverage and Exemption* Percentages by Institution Type

	Students Meeting Requirements	Not in Compliance	Provisional Admittance	Exemptions
Community Colleges	31	60	9	0
Graduate Degree-Granting Independent Institutions	100	0	0	0
Independent Four-Year Colleges	94	3	1	1
Independent Two-Year Religious Colleges	100	0	0	0
Proprietary Institutions With Degree-Granting Authority	88	2	10	0
Public Research Universities	84	4	12	0
State Colleges and Universities	93	4	2	1
Talmudic Institutions/Theological Seminaries	99	0	1	0
Overall	77	15	7	1

*Note: Religious and medical exemption rates are combined.

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

The MenACWY vaccine or the meningococcal conjugate vaccine protects against four types of bacteria that cause meningococcal disease: serogroups A, C, W, and Y. Students must receive at least one dose after age 16 or within five years before college entry. As of June 2020, all students, regardless of campus housing status, are required to receive the MenACWY vaccine as a condition of attendance.

Meningitis B (MenB) vaccine is recommended for adolescents and young adults ages 16 through 23 (preferably between 16 and 18), based on individual risk and shared clinical decision-making. MenB is not universally required, and vaccination rates may not be consistently collected or reported.

Requirement: As a condition of attendance, new students are required to receive the meningococcal vaccine in accordance with ACIP recommendations.

For Meningococcal Immunization Requirements in Higher Education, refer to N.J.A.C 8:57-6.8,6.10 and N.J.S.A.18A:62-15.1

Key Findings

High vaccination rates at most institutions:

- Most institution types reported high compliance with meningococcal vaccination requirements, averaging **93.9%**, while community colleges had notably lower compliance.

Higher non-compliance rate at community colleges:

- A striking **86%** of community colleges students are not in compliance with the meningococcal vaccine requirement, a much higher rate than at other institution types.
- This may be due to outdated policies that still apply the requirement only to students living in campus housing and a general lack of awareness about recent legislative changes.

State colleges and universities and independent four-year colleges report the highest two-dose MenACWY coverage:

- Approximately **50%** of students at state colleges and universities and independent four-year colleges received two doses of MenACWY vaccine

Note: Graduate degree-granting independent institutions and independent two-year religious colleges did not report meningococcal vaccination data and were therefore excluded from this analysis.

Meningococcal Vaccination Coverage and Exemption Percentages* by Institution Type

	Students Meeting Requirements (1 dose of ACWY)	Not in Compliance	Exemptions	Received 2 doses (ACWY)
Community Colleges	14	86	0	11
Independent Four-Year Colleges	96	3	1	48
Proprietary Institutions With Degree-Granting Authority	100	0	0	12
Public Research Universities	92	8	1	12
State Colleges and Universities	96	1	2	52
Talmudic Institutions/Theological Seminaries	93	6	1	42
Overall	64	36	1	23

HEPATITIS B

The HepB vaccine protects against the Hepatitis B virus, which is spread through contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person. ACIP recommends the vaccine for all children from birth through age 18 and adults aged 19– 59. The vaccine is given either as a three-dose series given over six months or a two-month series given one month apart.

Requirement: New students enrolled in a degree-seeking program registered for 12 or more credit hours per semester or term must receive two or three doses of an approved Hepatitis B vaccine series as a condition of enrollment.

For Hepatitis B Immunization Requirements in Higher Education, refer to N.J.A.C 8:57-6.9

Key Findings

High HepB vaccination rates at most institutions:

- Hepatitis B vaccination compliance averaged **93%** across most institution types. However, community colleges and independent four-year colleges reported substantially lower compliance than other institution types.

Higher non-compliance rate at community colleges and independent four-year colleges:

- Community colleges had the highest hepatitis B non-compliance rate (**60%**), followed by independent four-year colleges (**27%**). HepB vaccination is only required for students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours.

Note: Independent two-year religious colleges did not report hepatitis B vaccination data and were therefore excluded from this analysis.

Hepatitis B Vaccination Coverage and Exemption Percentages by Institution Type^{*}

	Students Meeting Requirements	Not in Compliance	Provisional Admittance	Exemptions
Community Colleges	32	60	8	0
Graduate Degree-Granting Independent Institutions	100	0	0	0
Independent Four-Year Colleges	71	27	1	0
Proprietary Institutions With Degree-Granting Authority	93	0	7	0
Public Research Universities	92	1	7	0
State Colleges and Universities	94	1	3	2
Talmudic Institutions/Theological Seminaries	97	2	1	0
Overall	74	20	5	1

RECOMMENDATIONS

Enhance Education and Communication:

Boost awareness around the importance of immunizations through targeted, multi-platform outreach:

- Use college/university websites, email newsletters, social media, and peer educators/wellness ambassadors to share accurate, up-to-date information.
- Regularly update students on vaccine requirements, availability, and benefits, and address common misconceptions.

Streamline Reporting Process:

Make it easier for students to comply with immunization requirements by:

- Developing a user-friendly online portal to upload and track vaccination status.
- Automating reminders for upcoming doses and submission deadlines.
- Leveraging existing systems like the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) for verified record access. More info: njis.nj.gov
- Use the Docket App to access and share official immunization records via NJIS. More info: njis.nj.gov/docs/covid/Consumer_Access_FAQ.pdf.

On-Campus Vaccination Clinics:

Improve access by offering low-cost or free vaccination clinics directly on campus:

- Partner with local health departments or pharmacies to host clinics.
- Promote clinic availability widely and align with high-traffic student events.

Incentivization Programs:

Encourage compliance through motivational incentives, such as:

- Bookstore gift cards, raffles, or discounts on student services
- Preferential housing options or academic recognition
- Certificates of compliance or shout-outs on campus platforms

LIMITATIONS

Multiple attempts were made to contact IHEs that failed to report their data this year. Subsequent reports will validate questionable data entries and actively communicate with colleges and universities that have not responded.

- **Statutory/Regulatory Language Disparity:** Due to current statutory and regulatory language, there may be discrepancies in compliance rates as to who meets the requirement.
- **Incomplete or Inaccurate Reporting:** The data's reliability and validity might be compromised due to incomplete or inaccurately reported information from the institutions. This could lead to an under- or over-estimation of the true immunization rates.
- **Non-Response Bias:** IHEs that did not respond to the survey might have differing immunization rates compared to those that did. This non-response bias could skew the results and fail to represent the true vaccination coverage across all colleges and universities.
- **Variability in Student Populations:** The diverse student populations across different institutions might introduce variability in vaccination rates. For example, part-time students, non-degree students, and those born before a certain year may not be required to meet the same immunization requirements, leading to varying rates of coverage.
- **Lack of Verification:** The data is based on self-reported information from the institutions and may be incomplete or inaccurate. This could introduce inaccuracies if institutions over- or under-report their compliance rates.
- **Temporal Limitations:** The data provides a snapshot at a particular point in time and may not reflect the current situation or changes over time. Factors such as changes in vaccination policies, outbreak occurrences, or changes in student enrollment could significantly impact immunization rates.

UPDATE TO IHE RULES

The New Jersey Department of Health has adopted updates to N.J.A.C. 8:57-6, which establish minimum immunization requirements for students enrolled in IHEs in New Jersey. These were effective upon adoption as of January 20, 2026; however, they will be implemented at the start of the 2027-28 academic year, unless noted otherwise. For more information on the updates to the IHE immunization requirements, visit nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements.

Main updates include:

- N.J.A.C. 8:57-6.3 reflects the statutory obligation stipulated at N.J.S.A. 18A:61D-1 to ensure compliance with N.J.A.C. 8:57-4, Immunization of Children in Child Care Centers and Schools.
- Students 30 years of age and younger are required to receive vaccines if a catch-up schedule exists.
- Enforcement will be in effect in September 2027 to allow time for implementation.

Vaccines Impacted by Rule Update:

Because the MMR, Hepatitis B, and Meningococcal vaccines are already required for eligible college students, the only routine catch-up vaccinations generally applicable to this population are:

- 1 dose of Varicella vaccine
- 3 doses of Polio vaccine
- 3-dose primary series of Tdap/Td or any combination of diphtheria, tetanus-containing vaccine and an adolescent dose of Tdap.

The College Immunization Status Report will be updated to reflect the collection and immunization status of these vaccines for the 2027-28 academic year. The annual College Immunization Status Report submission deadline will be December 1.

CONCLUSIONS

- The current analysis of institutions submitting the annual college immunization status report indicates that the majority of colleges and universities are complying with immunization regulations. This is demonstrated by the reported compliance rates for MMR, meningococcal, and Hepatitis B vaccines across various types of educational institutions.
- It is important to note that students enrolled in online programs or those with non-degree status may not be subject to vaccination requirements. Since these students are often included in total fall enrollment figures without differentiation, the compliance levels may be underestimated.
- With exemption rates remaining low, other factors likely contribute to non-compliance. Enforcement of immunization regulations is the responsibility of all New Jersey IHEs. Compliance with these requirements is mandatory for student enrollment, with exceptions only as outlined in higher education regulations.
- Strict enforcement of immunization policies is a critical step toward increasing vaccination coverage, which is essential to protect this vulnerable population. Together, we can create a safer, healthier environment for all students.

RESOURCES

- NJ Department of Health Vaccines Homepage: nj.gov/health/vaccines/
- NJ Administrative Code: nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/acode
- New Jersey Department of Health - Vaccine Preventable Disease Program: nj.gov/health/cd/vpdp.shtml
- New Jersey Immunization Information System: njiis.nj.gov
- New Jersey College Health Association: njcollegehealth.org
- Office of the Secretary of Higher Education: state.nj.us/highereducation/index.shtml
- American College Health Association: acha.org
- New Jersey Immunization Network: immunizenj.org
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: cdc.gov/immunization-training/hcp/pink-book-education-series/index.html
- American Academy of Pediatrics - Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule: downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf
- American Academy of Family Physicians - Adult 19 years and older Immunization schedule: bit.ly/4plOBuE
- NJ Department of Health - Meningococcal Disease: Are You Protected? brochure: nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/meningo/are_you_protected.pdf
- NJ Department of Health - My Partner Told Me They Have Hepatitis B: What does this mean?: nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/hepatitisb/hepatitisb-partner.pdf
- NJ Department of Health - Living with Hepatitis B: As a Teen or Young Adult: nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/hepatitisb/hepatitisb-teen-adult.pdf

REFERENCES

- American College Health Association. (2026). Immunization Recommendations for College Students. Retrieved from acha.org/resource/immunization-recommendations-for-college-students/
- American Academy of Family Physicians. (2026). Vaccines and Immunizations. Retrieved from aafp.org/clinical-insights/immunizations-and-vaccines/immunizations-schedules-resources

CONTACT INFO

For more information about the annual College Immunization Status Report or have specific questions about the data presented in this report, email HigherEdVax@doh.nj.gov.