

Policy 5320 IMMUNIZATION

Immunizations Required for School Attendance

Completed series and boosters for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, both measles (rubeola and rubella) and mumps, are required of all students for school attendance, as stated in Chapter 145, New Jersey State Sanitary Code, "Immunization of Pupils in Schools" (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4,1 to 8:57-4.16).

A. Medical Exemptions**

Medical exemptions to the required immunizations for school attendance will be accepted only from a licensed MD or DO. The specific period of time and reason(s) for the medical contraindication are to be clearly stated. The medical exemption is accepted only if it is based upon a valid medical contraindication, as stated in The Red Book from the American Academy of Pediatrics or from the Immunization Practices Advisor Committee (ACIP) Statements.

The physician's statement shall be made part of the pupil's immunization record and shall be reviewed by the school nurse annually. When the pupil's medical condition permits, this exemption shall be terminated and the required immunization(s) shall be required.

B. Religious Exemptions**

A parent or guardian may obtain a religious exemption to the mandatory immunization regulations by providing a written statement, on the Vineland Board of Education form which explains how the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the pupil's exercise tenets and practices. The statement is also to be signed by the ordained minister of the recognized religious organization, attesting to the fact that the pupil is an active member.

This statement of religious exemption from immunizations is to be kept as a part of the pupil's immunization record.

**Pupils who have either medical or religious exemption to immunization may be prohibited from attending Vineland public school when an emergency arises to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. The Vineland and New Jersey Departments of Health will provide guidance as to the appropriateness of this prohibition.

C. Provisional Admission

1. A pupil may be admitted to a Vineland public school on a provisional basis if a physician, clinic or health department provides documentation that the pupil is current with his/her immunizations, and is in the process of complying with all immunizations requirements.

2. For pupils under the age of five, provisional admission shall be granted in compliance with, the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.10 through 4.14 for a period of time consistent with the current Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (ACIP) of the United State Public Health Service or the American Academy of Pediatrics (ACIP) immunization schedule, but shall not exceed 17 months for completion of all immunization requirements.

3. Provisional admission for pupils five years of age or older shall be granted in compliance with the above-statutes and immunization schedules, but shall not exceed one year for completion of all immunization requirements. Pupils shall not be assigned to a Vineland public school until immunizations are current, according to above-stated immunization schedules. Pupils seeking entrance into the Kindergarten program must demonstrate having received the basic series of 3 DPT, 2 Polio and 1 MMR immunizations, with pupils born on or after January 1, 1990 also providing proof of having received a second measles immunization, usually in the form of an MMR. Students seeking admittance to any pre-school class must demonstrate having received at least one HIB inoculation, as well as the other required immunizations, to be admitted to school.

4. Provisional status shall be granted only one time to pupils entering or transferring into a school in New Jersey. Should a pupil attempt to transfer into a Vineland public school with deficient immunizations, the pupils shall not be assigned to a school until immunizations are current, according to the above-stated statutes and immunizations schedules.

5. Any pupil transferring into a Vineland Public school from out-of-state shall not be permitted provisional admittance until an immunization record can be obtained for evaluation. Provisional admittance shall be permitted as soon as the pupil provides documentation that his/her immunization status is current, according to the above-stated immunizations schedules.

6. The Vineland school nurses and the building principals shall ensure that the required vaccines/antigens are being received on schedule. If, after notification of 30 days for the required immunization(s), the pupil has not receive the immunization(s), the building principal may exclude the pupil from continued school attendance until the parent/guardian provides the appropriate documentation from a licensed physician or health department.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-20

N.J.S.A. 26:4-6

N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 et seq.

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