

TELL ME MORE about the newly required vaccines for child care and preschool in New Jersey

INFLUENZA VACCINE

Children entering a licensed child care or preschool between the ages of six months to under five years of age (59 months) will need to have one dose of influenza vaccine every year between September 1 and December 31.

Note: It is recommended that a child younger than nine years of age receiving the flu vaccine for the first time should receive two doses of flu vaccine. This also applies if the child was vaccinated for the first time last season but only received one dose.

PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE

Children two to eleven months of age entering a licensed child care or preschool need a minimum of two doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

Children one year to under five years of age (59 months) entering a licensed child care or preschool need a minimum of one dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine after the first birthday.

Check with your health care provider for the ACIP recommended vaccine schedule.

WHERE TO GO FOR VACCINATIONS

Your health care provider

If uninsured, visit www.state.nj.us/health/lh/directory/lhdselectcounty.htm to find your local health department for the location of:

The nearest public health clinic (Federally Qualified Health Center)

<http://nj.gov/health/fhs/cphc/documents/locations.pdf>

The local well-child clinic (Child Health Conference)

Who is at risk of getting sick from these diseases?

The following children are at higher risk of getting sick from flu or pneumococcal infections:

- Children under two years of age.
- Children in child care.
- Children who have certain illnesses (such as sickle cell disease, HIV infection, chronic heart or lung conditions, such as asthma).
- In addition, pneumococcal disease is more common among children of certain racial or ethnic groups, such as Alaskan Natives, Native Americans, and African-Americans.

For more information about vaccines for newborns through age five

CDC vaccine schedule recommendations for children :

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm

Guidance for minimal immunization requirements for NJ school attendance

www.nj.gov/health/forms/imm-7.pdf

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This information is provided to you by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Vaccine Preventable Disease Program
<http://nj.gov/health/cd/vpdhome.htm>
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Vaccine Requirements FOR CHILD CARE AND PRESCHOOL in New Jersey



Jon S. Corzine
Governor



Heather Howard
Commissioner

What vaccines does a child need to attend licensed child care and preschool in New Jersey? *

For licensed child care and preschool entry, children six months to under five years of age (59 months) must have documentation that they have received their age-appropriate vaccinations:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis
- Haemophilus influenzae B (Hib)
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Varicella

Starting September 2008, two vaccines have been added to the list of required vaccinations for children attending a licensed child care or preschool:

- Influenza (flu)
- Pneumococcal conjugate

A child that does not have the required vaccinations can be excluded from child care and/or preschool.

* In accordance with New Jersey Immunization Regulations for School Attendance N.J.A.C 8:57-4



Why do young children need the flu vaccine?

Influenza, or 'the flu', is a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory tract (nose, throat, lungs). The flu virus tends to spread from November to April with most cases seen between December and March.

- About 41 percent of preschool children are cared for in organized child care settings at least part of the time. Children in close contact have more chances for germs to spread.
- 38 million school days are missed each year due to flu illness.
- Each year in the U.S., about five to 20% of the population gets the flu, however children are two-to-three times more likely than adults to get sick with the flu.
- In the U.S., complications from influenza infection cause approximately 200,000 hospitalizations & 36,000 deaths each year.
Children under five years of age account for about 20,000 hospitalizations and nearly 100 deaths due to influenza.

A flu vaccine each year is the single best way to prevent getting the flu and/ or spreading the flu to others.

For this reason, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend routine annual influenza vaccination of children 6 months through 18 years of age.

For more flu information, go to:
www.nj.gov/health/flu/generalinfo.shtml

Why do young children need the pneumococcal vaccine?

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine protects against the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

This bacteria is the most common cause of:

- Lung infections (pneumonia).
- Blood infections (bacteremia).
- Infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis). Two to five percent of children who get pneumococcal meningitis will die. Of those who survive, 25% to 35% will have hearing loss, mental retardation or paralysis.
- Ear infections (otitis media) in young children. Children under two years of age average more than one middle ear infection each year, many of which are caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infections.



Young children are much more likely than older children and adults to get pneumococcal disease.

Children in child care settings are two- to three-times at greater risk for pneumococcal disease.

For more pneumococcal vaccine information, go to: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/default.htm