



November 6, 2024

Dear Parent,

School settings are ideal for the transmission of communicable diseases, making them prime locations for students and staff to be exposed to illnesses that can be brought home and passed on to the rest of the family. Routine vaccines and school vaccination requirements keep children in school and ready to learn, thereby supporting schools' operational, fiscal and academic goals. Keeping your child up to date on wellness visits and vaccinations is crucial for the health and well-being of students, families, teachers, and school staff.

Vaccine preventable diseases continue to impact our communities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of October 24, 2024, the United States had 271 reported measles cases with seventy-one percent (71%) associated with 15 reported outbreaks. Seventy-two percent (72%) were under the age of 19 years old, and eighty-nine percent (89%) were either unvaccinated or of unknown vaccination status. As recent as October 2024, the Ocean County Health Department was notified of a single measles case exposing dozens of our residents at a local hospital. Members of our Communicable Disease Unit were tasked with notifying these residents of the exposure and providing next steps for those involved. History of vaccination was critical in preventing any secondary cases for one of the most highly contagious airborne diseases we can encounter.

Additionally, in the first 8 months of 2024, the U.S. experienced 5 times as many cases of pertussis (whooping cough) compared to the same period in 2023, the CDC reports. In Ocean County, while the rise in cases is somewhat lower than the national average, it remains substantial, underscoring the need to remind residents of the serious risks posed by whooping cough and the important steps to protect themselves and our community.

School vaccination requirements are an essential layer of protection for our communities by keeping our students healthy and in school when vaccine preventable diseases occur. Attached is information regarding the importance of vaccinations and the minimum immunization requirements for childcare and school attendance in the State of New Jersey. If you have any questions, please contact the Communicable Disease Unit of the Ocean County Health Department at 732-341-9700, ext. 7515.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Regenye, MHA  
Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer





# Make Sure Your Children are Up-To-Date on Their Vaccinations

## Remember: Vaccinations can save your child's life.

Because of advances in medical science, your child can be protected against more diseases than ever before. These diseases are occurring in children in Ocean County.

Vaccinations are as much a part of protecting your children as are helping them across a busy street and having them wear seat belts and bike helmets.



## Vaccinations are very safe and effective.

Vaccines are only given to children after a long and careful review by scientists, doctors, and healthcare professionals.

## Immunization protects others you care about.

Children in the U.S. still get vaccine-preventable diseases. In fact, we have seen resurgences of measles, mumps, and whooping cough (pertussis) over the past few years.

## Immunization protects future generations.

Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases that killed or severely disabled people just a few generations ago.



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# Immunization Requirements:

## Childcare/Pre-K

The number of doses (by age) required can be found on the New Jersey Department of Health's Immunization website:

[https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/imm\\_requirements/cc\\_preschool\\_requirements\\_parents.pdf](https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/imm_requirements/cc_preschool_requirements_parents.pdf)

Minimum immunization requirements for childcare/daycare and pre-k attendees are based entirely on the age of the child. They are in line with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidance for the following vaccines: DTaP, Polio, MMR, Hib, PCV, Varicella and Influenza.

## Grade School

### (K through 5th grade)

Minimum immunization requirements for grade school attendees are determined by the child's grade level and also follow the ACIP guidance for the following vaccines:

- DTaP
- Polio
- MMR
- Hep B
- Varicella



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Health Department**

## 6th grade and higher (11 years old and higher)

All students entering/attending 6th grade or higher are required to meet the minimum vaccine requirements for grade school PLUS the following immunizations:

- One Tdap given after the 10th birthday
- One Meningococcal vaccine after the 10th birthday

The number of doses required (by grade) can be found on the New Jersey Department of Health's Immunization Requirements Website:

[https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/imm\\_requirements/k12\\_parents.pdf](https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/imm_requirements/k12_parents.pdf)



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# Flu Vaccination Requirements for Preschool/Childcare



Flu vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your family from this serious disease.

Every year in the U.S., 20,000 children under the age of 5 are hospitalized or die from severe complications of the Flu.

Something as simple as a Flu vaccination can save your child's life.

If your child attends a childcare or preschool program and is between 6 months and 5 years, he/she will be required to receive a Flu vaccination before December 31st of each year.

If your child does not receive his/her Flu vaccination, pursuant to New Jersey Administrative Code 8:57-4.2, the child will not be permitted to attend the childcare/preschool program.

Every year, the Ocean County Health Department offers Flu vaccinations to anyone over the age of 6 months. For more information, visit the Ocean County Health Department website at [www.ochd.org](http://www.ochd.org). You may also call 732.341.9700, ext. 7515, with questions.

