

CODIFICATION REFERENCE NUMBER: 5320

DATE: February 4, 2008

IMMUNIZATION

RESPONSIBILITY:

The school nurse shall have the primary responsibility to see that the following procedures are followed.

PROCEDURES:

IMMUNIZATION MONITORING

Uniform immunization has been mandated through New Jersey State Sanitary Code, Chapter 14 (N.J.A.C. 8:5.7-4.1 to 8:57- 4.18). These regulations are promulgated by the New Jersey State Department of Health. Yearly updates are made available to chief school administrators from that department. A copy of the regulations in effect at the time of this printing follows:

Regulation 1 - Applicability

These regulations shall apply to all pupils attending any public or private school in New Jersey, including child care centers, nursery schools, and kindergartens.

Regulation 2 - Proof of Immunization

No principal or other person in charge of a school shall knowingly admit or retain any pupil who has not submitted acceptable evidence of immunization according to the schedule specified below, except when there are exemptions as noted in this chapter.

Regulation 3 - Immunizations which are Medically Contraindicated

- A pupil shall not be required to have any immunizations which are medically contraindicated.
- A written statement from any physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy in any jurisdiction in the United States stating that an immunization is medically contraindicated for a specified period of time and the reasons for the medical contraindication will exempt a pupil from the specific immunization requirements of the chapter for the period of time specified in the physician's statement.

- The physician's statement shall be maintained by the school as part of the immunization record of the pupil and shall be reviewed annually.
- When the pupil's medical condition permits immunization, this exemption shall thereupon terminate, and the pupil will be required to obtain the immunizations from which he or she has been exempted.

Regulation 4 - Religious Exemptions; Parent or Guardian

- A pupil shall be exempted from mandatory immunization if the parent or legal guardian submits a signed statement that explains how the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the pupil's exercise of bona fide religious tenets or practices. General philosophical or moral objection to immunization shall not be sufficient for an exemption on religious grounds.
- The written statement signed by the parent or legal guardian will be kept by the school as part of the pupil's immunization record.
- Pupils enrolled in school before September 1991 and granted a religious exemption to immunization before May 1990 shall not be required to reapply for a new religious exemption under N.J.A.C. 8: 5.7- 4.4 (a)
- Pupils exempted on medical, provisional, or religious grounds may be temporarily excluded from school during a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or threatened outbreak, as determined by the State Commissioner of Health.

Regulation 5 - Provisional Admission to School

- A pupil may be admitted to school on a provisional basis if a physician or health department indicates that immunization of the pupil has already been initiated and that the pupil is in the process of complying with all immunization requirements.
- Such provisional admission shall be for a reasonable length of time that is consistent with the immunization schedule set forth in Immunization Requirements, but all requirements must be completed within one year for pupils five years of age or older and within seventeen months for pupils under the age of five.
- Provisional status shall be granted only one time to pupils entering or transferring into our District. If a pupil on provisional status transfers from our District, information on his or her status will be sent to the new school.
- Pupils transferring into our District from another state or out of county shall be allowed a thirty day grace period in order to obtain past immunization documentation before provisional status shall begin.

- The principal shall insure that the provisionally admitted pupil is receiving required immunizations on schedule. If the pupil has not completed the immunizations at the end of the provisional period, the principal shall exclude the pupil from school until appropriate documentation of completion has been presented.

Regulation 6 - Documents Accepted as Evidence of Immunization

- The following documents will be accepted as evidence of a pupil's immunization history provided that the individual immunizations and the date when each immunization was administered are listed:
 - An official school or preschool record noting specific month, day, and year of each immunization (vaccine antigen) from any school indicating compliance with the immunization requirements of this chapter;
 - A record from any public health department indicating compliance with the immunization requirements of this chapter; or
 - A certificate signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy in any jurisdiction in the United States indicating compliance with the immunization requirements of this chapter.
- All immunization records submitted by a parent or legal guardian in a language other than English shall be accompanied by a translation sufficient to determine compliance with the immunization requirements of this regulation.

Regulation 7 - Records Required

- Every school shall maintain an official State of New Jersey Immunization Record for every pupil which shall include the date of each individual immunization.
- The immunization record shall be kept separate and apart from the pupil's other medical records for the purpose of immunization record audit.
- If a pupil withdraws, is promoted, or transfers to another school, a copy of the record, including statements pertaining to medical or religious exemptions, shall be sent to the new school or be given to the parent or legal guardian on request, within twenty-four hours of the request.
- Each pupil's immunization record shall be retained along with other health records as part of the student's permanent record in perpetuity.

Regulation 8 - Reports to be Sent to State Department of Health

- All pupil reports of immunization will be kept on the Health History and Appraisal Card, A-45.

- A report of the immunization status of the pupils in each school shall be sent each year to the State Department of Health by the principal or other person in charge of the school.
- The form for the report shall be provided by the State Department of Health. The report shall include all pupils and shall be submitted by December 1 of the respective academic year.
- A copy of this report shall be sent to the local board of health in whose jurisdiction the school is located.
- Questions regarding an immunization should be directed to the Immunization Control Office, New Jersey Department of Health (1-609-588-7512) in Trenton or to (1-201-648-7500) in Newark.

Regulation 9 - Records Available for Inspection

The principal in charge of a school shall make immunization records available for inspection by authorized representatives of the State Department of Health or the local board of health in whose jurisdiction the school is located, **within twenty-four hours of notification.**

Regulation 10 - Immunization Requirements

HEPATITUS B

- Every nonexempt pupil born on or after 1 January 1996, prior to entering kindergarten or first grade (whichever is first), shall have received the appropriately spaced hepatitis B vaccination series.
- Every nonexempt pupil born on or after 1 January 1996 attending or transferring into a New Jersey school shall have received the appropriately spaced hepatitis B vaccination.
- Every nonexempt pupil born on or after 1 January 1990 and entering grade six shall have received the appropriately spaced hepatitis B vaccination series.
- Every nonexempt pupil born on or after 1 January 1990 attending or transferring into a New Jersey school shall have received the appropriately spaced hepatitis B vaccination series.
- Beginning in the 2003-2004 school year, every nonexempt high school pupil shall have received the appropriately spaced hepatitis B vaccination series prior to or during enrollment in ninth grade.
- Three appropriately spaced doses of the hepatitis B vaccination or two appropriately spaced hepatitis B Adult Formulation vaccination (approved for administration in children ages 11-15) shall be acceptable as adequate immunization for this vaccine series.

DIPHTHERIA/PERTUSSIS/TETANUS TOXOIDS

- Every nonexempt pupil born on or after 1 January 1986 shall have received a minimum of four doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine (DPT), or any vaccine combination containing DPT, such as DTQ/Hib, one dose of which shall have been given on or after the fourth birthday.
 - Pupils enrolled in preschool who are too young to meet this requirement shall be considered to be in compliance if they are appropriately immunized for their age as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the United States Public Health Services.
 - Pediatric diphtheria-tetanus (DT) shall be accepted in lieu of DTP or DTAP for pupils under age seven if a physician's written medical contraindication to further pertussis vaccine has been presented specified in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3.
 - Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTAP) for children under age seven shall be accepted in lieu of DTP vaccine for the fourth or fifth dose in the DTP series, if given on or after 15 months of age.
 - Pupils seven years of age and older who have not completed this requirement shall receive a tetanus and diphtheria toxoid, (adult Td) instead of DTP. Any appropriately spaced combination of three doses of DTP or Td in a pupil over seven shall be acceptable as adequate immunization for this vaccine series.
 - Those pupils born on or after 1 January 1986 who have received five or more doses of DTP and DTAP shall have satisfied the DTP requirements.

POLIO

- Every nonexempt pupil born on or after 1 January 1986 shall have received at least three doses of live, trivalent, oral polio virus vaccine (OPV), or inactivated polio virus vaccine (IPV) if medically appropriate, either separately or in combination, one dose of which shall have been given on or after the pupil's fourth birthday.
 - Pupils enrolled in preschool who are too young to meet this requirement shall be considered to be in compliance if they are appropriately immunized for their age as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the United States Public Health Services.
 - For pupils seven years of age and older, any appropriately spaced combination of enhanced IFV and OPV will satisfy the polio virus vaccine requirement.
 - Any student 18 years of age or older shall not be required to receive polio virus vaccine.

MEASLES

- Every nonexempt pupil born on or after 1 January 1990 shall have received two doses of measles virus vaccine, live, attenuated, or any vaccine combination containing live measles vaccine, such as the preferred measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine prior to school entrance for the first time into kindergarten, grade 1, or a comparable age entry level special education program. The first dose shall be administered on or after the pupils first birthday, and the second dose shall have been administered no less than one month after the first dose.

Pupils born before 1 January 1990, shall have received one dose of live measles vaccine or any measles-containing combination vaccine on or after their first birthday.

- Pupils who present documented laboratory evidence of measles immunity shall not be required to receive measles vaccine.
- Pupils enrolled in school before 1 September 1991 who have a current immunization record with physician diagnosed and documented measles disease shall not be required to receive measles vaccine.
- Pupils born on or after 1 January 1990, and enrolling in school (Kindergarten or Grade 1) for the first time after 2 September 1995, with no documented doses of measles vaccine, shall receive the second dose of measles or another measles-containing combination vaccine, no sooner than one month and no later than two months after receiving the first dose.

RUBELLA

- Every nonexempt pupil shall have received one dose of live rubella virus vaccine or any vaccine combination containing live rubella virus vaccine, administered on or after the pupil's first birthday. Rubella virus vaccine shall not be required of pupils who present documented laboratory evidence of rubella immunity.

MUMPS

- Every nonexempt pupil shall have received one dose of live mumps virus vaccine, or any vaccine combination containing live mumps vaccine, administered on or after the pupil's first birthday. Pupils enrolled in school before 1 September 1995, and who previously provided written certification from the diagnosing physician that the pupil had mumps disease shall not be required to receive mumps vaccine. Pupils who present documented laboratory evidence of mumps immunity shall not be required to receive mumps vaccine.

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

- Every nonexempt pupil, including those in child care, pre-school, and kindergarten who is 2 months to their fifth birthday must provide proof of the one to three Hib vaccinations to prevent bacterial meningitis which are appropriate for that child's age. Specifically, (age 2-11 months): 2 doses and (age 12-59 months): 1 dose. DTP/Hib is also a valid Hib dose.

VARICELLA VIRUS

- Every child born on or after January 1, 1998 shall have received one dose of varicella vaccine, or any vaccine combination containing varicella virus, administered on or after the first birthday, prior to school entrance for the first time into a Kindergarten, Grade 1, or a comparable age entry level special education program with an unassigned grade.
- Every child 19 months of age or older enrolling in or attending a child care center or preschool facility shall have received at least one dose of a varicella containing vaccine administered on or after the first birthday.
- Every child born on or after January 1, 1998, attending or transferring into a New Jersey school from another state or country, shall have received one dose of a varicella virus containing vaccine.
- Children who present either documented laboratory evidence, a physician's statement, or a parental statement of previous varicella disease, shall not be required to receive varicella vaccine.

Regulation 11 - Providing Immunization

- Our Board of Education and/or the Bernards Township Board of Health may provide at public expense, the necessary requirement, materials and services for immunizing pupils with the following immunizing agents, either singly or in combination:
 - Hepatitis B Vaccination Series
 - Diphtheria toxoid,
 - Pertussis vaccine,
 - Tetanus toxoid,
 - Measles virus vaccine (live, attenuated),
 - Rubella virus vaccine (live),
 - Poliomyelitis vaccine (OPV or EPV),
 - Mumps virus vaccine (live),
 - Hemophilus Influenza Type B,
 - Varicella virus vaccine, and
 - Other immunizing agents when specifically authorized to do so by the State Department of Health.

Regulation 12 - Emergency Powers

If a threatened outbreak or outbreak exists at a school, as determined by the State Commissioner of Health, all pupils with provisional, religious, or medical exemptions (which relate to the specific disease threatening or occurring) shall be excluded for a specific period of time or until the outbreak is declared over as determined by the New Jersey Department of Health. If these pupils become immunized or produce serologic evidence of immunity to the specific disease, the pupil may immediately be readmitted to school.