



State of New Jersey  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SERVICE**

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

PO BOX 369  
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0369

[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM  
*Acting Commissioner*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) recommends that all children follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Recommended Immunization Schedules to have the best protection against vaccine-preventable diseases. Children who are not vaccinated on schedule are not only at risk of getting sick themselves, but they can also spread illness to others. Just like eating healthy foods, exercising, and getting regular check-ups, vaccines play a vital role in keeping your children healthy and are one of the safest preventive care measures available.

Most parents choose the safe, proven protection of vaccines, but some may have questions or concerns. The NJDOH is here to help you sort out information so that you can make informed decisions about vaccinations. The **NJDOH Vaccine Information Toolkit for Parents/Guardians**, available at [nj.gov/health/cd/vpdp.shtml](http://nj.gov/health/cd/vpdp.shtml), was created with this purpose in mind. The toolkit covers the following topics:

- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Ways to keep children calm and prepare them for vaccination visits
- Steps for spotting vaccine misinformation
- Tips for keeping children up to date with vaccines
- Where to access vaccines and find additional vaccine resources

If your child has missed any of their recommended vaccines – or if you are unsure – talk to your child's pediatrician or health care provider as soon as possible. Then, schedule an appointment for your child to receive any on-time or catch-up vaccines needed.

Vaccination is a shared responsibility. Families, schools, health care and public health professionals must all do our part to protect communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. By ensuring ourselves and our children are vaccinated, we prevent the spread of dangerous infections. By seeking and sharing credible and trustworthy information, we empower ourselves and others to make the right decisions.

Sincerely,

*Felicia Walton*

Felicia Walton  
Program Manager  
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program