



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
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February 5, 2010

TO: Health Officers and Local Boards of Health
Public Health and Health Care Partners
County and District Superintendents of Schools
Parochial and Private School Administrators
Administrators of Preschool Facilities
Principals
School Nurses

FROM: Barbara Montana, MD, MPH, FACP
Medical Director
Communicable Disease Service

SUBJECT: NJDHSS Requirements for School Attendance for Arrivals from Haiti

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) has received many inquiries regarding immunization requirements for arrivals from Haiti who will be entering school, pre-school or child care. Individuals arriving from Haiti should receive immunizations according to the schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) which can be accessed on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm>.

Any child attending any public or private school, child care center, nursery school, preschool or kindergarten in New Jersey must be immunized in accordance with 8:57 – 4, *Immunization of Pupils in School*. Children transferring into a New Jersey school, preschool, or child-care center from out-of-State or out-of-country shall be allowed a 30-day grace period in order to obtain past immunization documentation before provisional status is granted. Given the conditions in Haiti, it is unlikely that written documentation of immunizations will be available. Therefore, it is highly recommended that individuals are appropriately vaccinated in accordance with ACIP recommendations upon arrival. As per 8:57 – 4.5, a child shall be admitted to a school, preschool, or child-care center on a provisional basis if a physician, advanced practice nurse or health department can document that at least one dose of each required age-appropriate vaccine(s) or antigen(s) has been administered and that the pupil is in the process of receiving the remaining immunization(s). A chart outlining the vaccines required for school attendance can be accessed on the NJDHSS Vaccine Preventable Disease Program website at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/forms/imm-7.pdf>

Any individual with signs or symptoms consistent with a communicable disease such as diarrhea, fever or rash should be excluded from school and other congregate settings. Assessment for active TB should be completed prior to school attendance or admittance to other congregate settings.

If you have additional questions, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 609-826-4860.

Additional information and references

Interim Recommendations for Initial Domestic Medical Screening of Haitian Orphan Parolees.
January 25, 2010, Department of Health and Human Services. Updated February 1, 2010.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention available at www.cdc.gov

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services available at www.state.nj.us/health