State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

SHIRLEY U. EMEHELU
Lt. Governor

DR. RAYNARD E. WASHINGTON
Commissioner

November 18, 2026

Dear Colleagues:

Now that the school year is underway, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), the New Jersey Department of Education, and the New Jersey Department of Children and Families would like to reinforce the importance of timely vaccination to protect children, staff, and the broader community from vaccine-preventable diseases. Preschools, child care facilities, and schools play key roles in protecting communities by ensuring that children are meeting New Jersey Immunization Requirements.

All preschools, child care facilities, and K – 12 schools must submit an Annual Immunization Status Report (ASR) to NJDOH. The ASR enables the State and local health departments to assess immunization coverage, identify areas with lower vaccination rates, and inform public health interventions.

On January 20, 2026, NJDOH adopted amendments to N.J.A.C. 8:57-3, the *New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS)*, and N.J.A.C. 8:57-4, *Immunization of Children in Child Care Centers and Schools*. These updates support consistent implementation of the State's immunization standards and reporting processes.

NJIIS and ASR Requirements

Beginning with the 2026–2027 academic year, all reporting facilities must be enrolled in NJIIS to complete the ASR in the NJIIS School Forms module. NJDOH thanks the many facilities that have already enrolled in NJIIS. This transition will improve communication with facilities and coordination with local health departments. NJDOH will also collect vaccine specific data for the first time, which will enable schools and public health agencies to better assess vaccine coverage and risk for a particular disease.

Completion of the ASR is mandatory. All facilities are expected to:

- Ensure the facility is enrolled in NJIIS;
- Designate a staff member to complete the ASR; and
- Submit an accurate ASR through NJIIS by the December 1 deadline

NJDOH looks forward to working with you toward our common goal of keeping children safe; we hope that you will prioritize ensuring children are vaccinated and completing the ASR. Failure to comply with the reporting or immunization requirements is a violation of the State Sanitary Code and may result in enforcement action, including civil penalties as authorized under N.J.S.A. 26:1A-10.

Stay Well, Learn Well

The statewide "**Stay Well, Learn Well**" campaign highlights the important connection between children's health and their ability to learn and succeed in school. Through the campaign, families can find opportunities for routine vaccination, annual physicals, and other health and wellness

services, including preventive health screening. The campaign is aligned with Governor Mikie Sherrill's priorities of protecting kids, expanding access, and making sure every child in New Jersey has the opportunity to succeed. Routine vaccination is a key ingredient to keep children safe. Families seeking vaccination should check with their trusted healthcare provider, their local health department, Federally Qualified Health Center, Community Health Center, or the DOH Back to School Community Calendar

Vaccine-Preventable Disease Risk

The United States is experiencing the largest measles outbreak in decades. As of October 9, 2026, there are 4,080 confirmed measles cases with 95% of those cases being unvaccinated or of unknown status. Of the 4,080 confirmed cases, 414 (10%) have been hospitalized. NJ has two confirmed cases in 2026. Unfortunately, our New York and Pennsylvania (PA) neighbors are experiencing large outbreaks with 102 and 1,078 cases, respectively. PA has reported 5 measles-associated deaths among the 1,078 cases. According to recent data from the National Immunization Survey, only 92% of children in New Jersey have received at least one dose of a measles-containing vaccine by age 24 months, in line with the national average of 91.4%. This is below the level of 95% needed for herd immunity.

We appreciate your attention to these requirements and your continued commitment to protecting the health of New Jersey's children and communities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Reynard E. Washington
Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health

Dr. Lily Laux
Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Education

Joseph Ribsam
Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Children and Families

Resources:

FAQ for NJIIS ASR & Audit Forms

NJIIS User Guide for ASR & Audit Forms

New Jersey Immunization Information System

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