New Jersey Department of Health Vaccine Preventable Disease Program Responsibilities Snapshot

From parents to state agencies, many of us share the responsibility to get children age-appropriately immunized.

Department of Health

- Maintains and enforces rules regarding vaccination of pupils in school.
- Provides guidance to schools and local health departments regarding vaccination of pupils in schools.
- Collects and analyzes data from schools and local health departments regarding vaccination rates of pupils in schools.
- Provides guidance to schools on appropriateness of prohibition of attendance of any teacher or pupil to prevent the spread of communicable disease.

Department of Children and Families/Office of Licensing

 Maintains and ensures student health immunization records are in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 (Manual of Requirements for Childcare Centers, N.J.A.C. 10:122-7.3).

Department of Education

- Maintains student health records (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4).
- Ensures immunization records are reviewed for completeness and updated annually (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1&2.2).

Parent/Guardian

- Ensures children are vaccinated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:57-4, NJ's Immunization of Pupils in School.
- Provides appropriate documentation to schools.

Child/Student gets immunized

Local Health Departments

Assist all schools, with an emphasis on preschool facilities, in implementing and enforcing the immunization requirements contained in *N.J.A.C.* 8:57-4 by providing immunization services and conducting periodic surveys and representative record audits every year (N.J.A.C. 8:52 Appendix).

Healthcare Providers

- Ensure timely vaccination of children in accordance with Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to facilitate enrollment and maintenance in school, preschool and child care facilities.
- Ensure all medical exemptions written in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 and are based upon valid medical reasons as enumerated by the ACIP or the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Schools, Preschools, and Child Care

- A principal, director or other person in charge of a school, preschool or child care facility shall not knowingly admit or retain any child whose parent or guardian has not submitted acceptable evidence of the child's immunization unless the child has a valid medical or religious exemption.
- Communicate immunization information to parents.
- Maintain an official state of New Jersey immunization record for every pupil which includes the date of each immunization and shall be separated from the child's educational record for purpose of immunization record audit. Audits may be conducted by NJDOH or local board of health in whose jurisdiction the school or child care center is located.
- Prohibit the attendance of any teacher or pupil of any school to prevent the spread of communicable disease in consultation with the NJ DOH.
- Complete the Annual Immunization Status Report.

For instructions on viewing NJ Immunization of Pupils in School (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4) and the NJ Immunization Information System (N.J.A.C. 8:57-3) regulations, please visit http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/reporting.shtml