New Jersey Department of Health
Tuberculosis Program

Tuberculosis Testing in New Jersey Schools

Justification: To limit tuberculosis screening in New Jersey schools to teachers/other employees and only those students who are at highest risk for latent TB infection.

I. Only a positive interferon gamma release assay test result or a Mantoux intradermal test using 5 TU of stabilized PPD tuberculin skin test result measuring ≥ 10mm of induration shall be considered a “significant reaction” and evidence of latent TB infection.

II. The following tuberculosis testing requirements apply to ALL school districts:

1. Students born in a country that is not listed on page 3 and entering school in the U.S. for the first time, regardless of age or grade.

2. Students transferring into the New Jersey school system directly from a country not listed on page 3, regardless of age or grade.

EXCEPTIONS FOR BOTH GROUPS OF STUDENTS LISTED ABOVE:

Entering at preschool through grade 5: Tuberculosis testing is not required if the student has documentation of an IGRA or Mantoux tuberculin skin test at the age of three years or older, regardless of the result of that test.

Entering at grades 6 through 12: Tuberculosis testing is not required if the student has documentation of a negative tuberculosis test in the last six months or a positive test, regardless when this test was done.

Tuberculosis testing is not required if the student has attended school in another state prior to entering the New Jersey school system.

Any student with parents claiming religious exemption (TB-8 Form) cannot be compelled to submit to tuberculosis testing. In these instances, a symptom assessment must be done (TB-8 Form). If TB-like symptoms are reported, a physician must document that the student does not have active disease. Each school district is responsible for determining the criteria essential to document a valid religious exemption.
3. **Teachers and Other Employees**

A tuberculosis test shall be given upon employment to all newly hired employees (full-time and part-time), all student teachers, school bus drivers on contract with the district and other persons (e.g., volunteers) who have contact with students.

**EXEMPTIONS:**

Tuberculosis testing is not required for volunteers working with pupils for less than 20 hours per month.

Tuberculosis testing is not required for new employees, student teachers and contractors of the district with a documented negative tuberculosis test result in the last six months or a documented positive tuberculosis test result, regardless of when this test was done.

Tuberculosis testing is **not required** for a school employee transferring between school districts or from a non-public school within New Jersey with a documented tuberculosis test result upon his/her initial employment by a New Jersey school.

Employees, student teachers, contractors or volunteers who have contact with students and claim religious exemption cannot be compelled to submit to tuberculosis testing. In these instances, a symptom assessment must be done (TB-8 Form). If TB-like symptoms are reported, a physician must document that the employee, student teacher, contractor or volunteer does not have active disease. Each school district is responsible for determining the criteria essential to document a valid religious exemption.
THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES HAVE A LOW INCIDENCE OF TB AND REQUIRE NO TB TESTING

Albania
America Samoa
Andorra
Antigua and Barbuda
Australia
Austria
Barbados
Belgium
Bermuda
British Virgin Islands
Canada
Cayman Islands
Chile
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominica
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Greenland
Grenada
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Hungary

Jamaica
Jordan
Lebanon
Luxembourg
Malta
Monaco
Montserrat
Netherlands
Netherlands Antilles
New Zealand
North Ireland
Norway
Oman
Puerto Rico
Saint Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
Saint Lucia
Samoa
San Marino
Slovakia
Slovenia
Sweden
Switzerland
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos Islands
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
United States Virgin Islands

Students entering a U.S. school for the first time in New Jersey or transferring into a New Jersey school from ANY country NOT listed above must receive an IGRA or Mantoux tuberculin skin test unless they meet an exemption criterion.