

New Jersey Department of Health Tuberculosis Program

Recommended Tuberculosis Testing in New Jersey Schools

Justification: To restrict 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 ≥ 10 mm of induration shall be considered a “significant reaction” and evidence of latent TB infection.**
- II. **The following tuberculosis testing recommendations 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 recommended 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 recommended 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 recommended 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, and school bus drivers on contract with the district and other persons (e.g., volunteers) who have contact with students.

EXEMPTIONS:

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

Tuberculosis testing is not recommended 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, regardless of when this test was done.

Tuberculosis testing is **not recommended** 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 should 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**

America Samoa	Lebanon
Andorra	Luxembourg
Antigua and Barbuda	Malta
Australia	Monaco
Austria	Montserrat
Barbados	Netherlands
Belgium	Netherlands Antilles
Bermuda	New Zealand
Canada	North Ireland
Cayman Islands	Norway
Cook Islands	Oman
Costa Rica	Puerto Rico
Cuba	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cyprus	St. Lucia
Czech Republic	St. Maarten (Dutch)
Denmark	San Marino
Dominica	Slovakia
Finland	Slovenia
France	Spain
Germany	Sweden
Greece	Switzerland
Greenland	Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada	Turks and Caicos Islands
Iceland	United Arab Emirates
Ireland	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Israel	United States of America
Italy	United States Virgin Islands
Jamaica	West Bank and Gaza
Jordan	

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.