

5320 IMMUNIZATION

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, the Board of Education requires the immunization of students against certain diseases in accordance with State statute and rules of the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services.

A student shall not knowingly be admitted or retained in school if the parent has not submitted acceptable evidence of the child's immunization, according to schedules specified in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 – Immunization of Pupils in School. However, a child may be admitted to school on a provisional basis in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5 and Regulation 5320.

Medical or religious exemptions to immunizations shall be in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3 and 4.4. For students with a medical exemption pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3, the school nurse shall annually review student immunization records to confirm the medical condition for the exemption from immunization continues to be applicable in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b)3.v.

No immunization program, other than that expressly required by the rules of the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services or by order of the New Jersey State Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, may be conducted in district schools without the express approval of the Board.

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A student shall not knowingly be admitted or retained in school if the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) has not submitted acceptable evidence of the child's immunization, according to schedules specified in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 – Immunization of Student's in School.

Medical or religious exemptions to immunizations shall be in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3 and 4.4. A child may be admitted to school on a provisional basis in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5.

Control of Contagious Diseases or Conditions

In order to protect the health of the students in our schools, all regulations of the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health and the local board of health shall be scrupulously observed, particularly those dealing with contagious or infectious diseases or conditions. Students who have been absent because of contagious or infectious diseases or

conditions must present a certificate of recovery from a licensed physician or be examined by the medical inspector.

The school nurse shall observe students who show evidence of communicable disease and recommend their exclusion to the school principal. Recommendations shall be consistent with reporting requirements on communicable diseases as set forth in the New Jersey Health Code. Such students shall be isolated until a parent/guardian picks them up, and any necessary measures have been taken to prevent spread of the infection. The school nurse, under the direction of the medical inspector, shall instruct all teachers in the symptoms of the most common diseases or conditions at least once a year.

Any student with HIV infection or AIDS or who lives with or is related to someone with HIV or AIDS shall not be excluded from general education, transportation services, extracurricular activities, athletic activities, assigned to home instruction or classified as eligible for special education because of the HIV infection. The school nurse shall recommend the exclusion of any individual with weeping skin lesions that cannot be covered.

In addition to the review of health and safety measures required by law, the school nurse shall individually instruct teachers from whose classrooms a student has been excluded in the symptoms of the disease for which the student was excluded. Student rights and confidentiality shall be protected in accordance with law. No teacher shall attempt to diagnose any illness of a student but shall refer suspected cases to the nurse immediately.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is the process used to identify those who come into contact with people who have tested positive for many contagious diseases, including COVID-19. Contact tracing is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and their contacts (people who may have been exposed) and working with them to interrupt disease transmission. For COVID-19, this includes asking cases to isolate and contacts to quarantine at home voluntarily.

All procedures will adhere to applicable federal and state law and regulations regarding privacy and the confidentiality of records.

Contact tracing for COVID-19 typically involves:

- A. Interviewing people with COVID-19 to identify everyone with whom they had close contact during the time they may have been infectious;
- B. Notifying contacts of their potential exposure;
- C. Referring contacts for testing;

- D. Monitoring contacts for signs and symptoms of COVID-19; and
- E. Connecting contacts with services they might need during the self-quarantine period.

To prevent the further spread of disease, COVID-19 contacts are encouraged to stay home and maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others until 14 days after their last exposure to a person with COVID-19. Contacts should monitor themselves by checking their temperature twice daily and watching for symptoms of COVID-19.

The School Nurse shall consult with the local health department in the development, review and revision of the District contact tracing policy and procedures. The School Nurse and the Building Principal are the designated staff liaisons responsible for providing notifications and carrying out other components of the Board's contact tracing policy.

The School Nurse in consultation with the Building Principal will establish measures for a system of open communication that allows staff, students, and families to self-report symptoms and/or suspected exposure.

A staff member shall immediately notify the Building Principal and the School Nurse when he/she observes symptoms consistent with COVID 19 or becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a District facility tests positive for COVID-19. The School Nurse will immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality when the COVID-19 test is positive.

When the individual exhibits symptoms the School Nurse will ensure that the student is taken to the designated isolation area. The School Nurse will examine the individual and may refer them for testing and treatment. A student exhibiting symptoms of COVID 19 may be required to submit to a COVID 19 test. The School Nurse will require the certification of a physician that the student is contagion free before readmitting a student to school. The School Nurse shall report all students testing positive for COVID 19 to the Gloucester County Health Department. The Gloucester County Health Department shall conduct the contact tracing.

Symptoms of COVID 19 include:

- A. A fever of 100° F or greater;
- B. Cough;
- C. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- D. Chills;
- E. Repeated shaking with chills;
- F. Muscle pain;
- G. Headache;
- H. Sore throat;

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- I. New loss of taste or smell;
- J. Fatigue;
- K. Congestion or runny nose;
- L. Nausea or vomiting;
- M. Diarrhea

All Building and District administrators, school safety specialists, counselors, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the District, shall be provided information regarding the role of contact tracing in keeping school communities safe from the spread of contagious disease.

The School Nurse or his/her designee shall make information available and/or conduct virtual information sessions to educate the broader school community on the importance of contact tracing.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-20

N.J.S.A. 26:4-6

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3

N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 et seq.

Adopted: 14 March 2005

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