Merchantville Board of Education 130 South Centre Street Merchantville, NJ 08109	File Code : 5141.3 Adopted : 12/11/1984 Revised : 08/25/2020 Reviewed : 06/03/2024

Health Examinations & Immunizations

Pupils who enter the district schools for the first time shall have a medical examination conducted at the medical home of the student, and a full report sent to the school. If a student does not have a medical home, the district shall provide this examination at the school physician's office or other appropriately equipped facility. "Medical home" means a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the student's parent/guardian for the provision of health care. As the school physician is also a health care provider, the parent/guardian may request that the school physician provide the medical examination.

A pupil shall be exempted from mandatory immunization if the parent/guardian objects to immunization in a written statement submitted to the chief school administrator, signed by the parent/guardian, explaining how the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the pupil's exercise of bona fide religious tenets or practices. General philosophical or moral objection to immunization shall not be sufficient for an exemption on religious grounds.

Every pupil who enters the district schools for the first time shall present an immunization record as required by law. At the parent/guardian's request, these immunizations may be administered by the school physician.

In order to protect the health of the children and staff in district 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/infectious diseases or conditions. Pupils seeking to enter school who have been identified as having a communicable/infectious disease or condition shall not be enrolled unless they qualify under the above agencies' rules pertaining to periods of incubation, communicability, quarantine and reporting.

The chief school administrator or his/her designee shall formulate regulations that ensure immunization records are reviewed and updated annually pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 through 4.16. The chief school administrator shall also formulate regulations for this policy and for regular pupil health examinations at appropriate grade levels; before participation in sports programs; and for tuberculosis, scoliosis, hearing loss, visual acuity and any other physical examinations required by law. Any health defects revealed by any examination given by the school health services must be reported to the parent/guardian. The board shall review the regulations and adopt those required by law.

Pandemic Reopening and Recovery

A. Screening and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

1. Adequate amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be available, accessible, and provided for use by staff and students.
2. School staff and visitors are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health or the individual is under two years of age.
3. Students are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings and are required to do so when social distancing cannot be maintained, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health.
4. Staff and students shall be screened for entry into the school building;
5. The principal or his or her designee shall develop a school entry plan that includes:

a. Staff assigned to do the screening;
b. Designated entrances that will be used to admit students;
c. The assignment of classes and grades to designated entrances and/or designated entrance times;

6. Staff must visually check students for symptoms upon arrival (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are free of COVID-19 symptoms;
7. Health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations;
8. Results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed;
9. Screening procedures shall take into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students;

B. Procedures for symptomatic staff and students:

1. The school principal or his or her designee shall establish an isolation space;
2. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 shall be safely and respectfully isolated from others. Students should remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult;
3. Staff must provide continuous monitoring of symptoms;
4. The current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting shall be followed;
5. If a staff member becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, the staff members shall notify the principal and the school nurse. The school nurse shall immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality;

C. Preparations for when someone tests positive for COVID-19:

1. The school principal or his or her designee shall establish an isolation space;
2. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 shall be safely and respectfully taken to the designated isolation space and isolated from others. Students should remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult;
3. The current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting shall be followed;
4. Readmittance to school shall be consistent with Department of Health guidance and information for schools and Department of Health/Communicable Disease Service's Quick Reference Guidance on Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19;
5. Contact tracing shall be initiated including records of groups/cohorts, assigned staff, and daily attendance.

D. Protocols to address a positive case:

Students and employees may be asked to leave or not come into school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19, based on CDC guidance, that is not otherwise explained:

1. A fever of 100° F or greater;
2. Cough;
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
4. Chills;
5. Repeated shaking with chills;
6. Muscle pain;
7. Headache;
8. Sore throat;
9. New loss of taste or smell;
10. Fatigue;

11. Congestion or runny nose;
12. Nausea or vomiting;
13. Diarrhea.

Parent/ Guardian Notice

In accordance with federal law, the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), parents/guardians shall be notified annually of the opportunity for the parent/guardian to opt the student out of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is:

A. Required as a condition of attendance;

B. Administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and

C. Not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.

Key Words

Immunizations, Inoculations, Examinations, Pupil Physical Examinations, Student Physical Examinations, Health

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6 through -4.8	Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4	Examination for physical defects and screening of hearing of pupils; health records
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4.3	Scoliosis; periodic examination; notice to parents or guardian
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4.4	Exemption
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4.5	Immunity from action of any kind due to provisions of act
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5	Method of examination; notice to parent or guardian
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-6	In general
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-11	Exclusion of pupils having communicable tuberculosis
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-16 through -19	Tuberculosis infection; determination of presence ...
N.J.S.A. 18A:40-20	Immunization at public expense
N.J.S.A. 18A:61D-8 through -10	Findings, declarations relative to Hepatitis B vaccinations….
N.J.S.A. 26:1A-9.1	Exemption of pupils from mandatory immunizations
N.J.S.A. 26:4-6	Prohibiting attendance of teachers or pupils
N.J.S.A. 26:2T-5 through -9	Findings, declarations relative to Hepatitis C
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4	Evaluation
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1et seq. See particularly: N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3, -2.1, -2.2, -2.3, -2.4, -4.1, -4.3	Programs to Support Student Development
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-9.1	Athletics Procedures
N.J.A.C. 8:57-2 and N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1	Reporting of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus Applicability

N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.2	Proof of immunization
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3	Medical exemptions
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.4	Religious exemptions
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5	Provisional admission
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.6	Documents accepted as evidence of immunization
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.7	Records required
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.8	Reports to be sent to the State Department of Health
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.9	Records available for inspection
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.10	Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.11	Poliovirus vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.12	Measles virus vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.13	Rubella vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.14	Mumps vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.15	Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.16	Hepatitis B virus vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.17	Varicella virus vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.18	Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.19	Influenza vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.20	Meningococcal vaccine
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.21	Providing immunization
N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.22	Emergency power of the Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior
N.J.A.C. 8:61-2.1	Attendance at school by students or adults infected by Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)
20 U.S.C.A. 1232h	Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

Plainfield Board of Education v. Cooperman, 105 NJ 587 (1987)

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 , Pub. L. 114-95, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

The NJDOE Guidance: *The Road Back: Restart and Recovery* at: *https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/*

Possible Cross References:

*1410	Local units
*4123	Classroom aides
*5111	Admission
*5113	Absences and excuses
*5131.6	Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
*5141	Health
*5141.21	Administering medication
*5200	Nonpublic school pupils
*6142.4	Physical education and health
*6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
*6162.5	Research
*6164.4	Child study team
*6171.4	Special education