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To: Childcare/Preschool Director
From: Vaccine Preventable Disease Program
Subject: Influenza Tracking Form

As you may be aware, New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) mandates that all children 6 through 59 months of age attending any licensed child care center or preschool facility (including pre-kindergarten) receive at least one dose of influenza (flu) vaccine between September 1 and December 31 of each year (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.19). NJDOH recognizes the challenges in implementing this requirement; therefore, the *Flu Vaccine Tracking* form has been developed to assist you.

To meet the December 31 deadline, we suggest you use the *Flu Vaccine Tracking* form or a substitute form to list the students who have **NOT** received the flu vaccine by December 1. Completing this form will allow you to have ample time to send a reminder notice to parents of students who still need to receive the vaccine. The local health department may be able to assist you in locating flu vaccine for those students in need. NJDOH does not require the use of this document, but it is highly recommended that some type of tool is utilized to capture this information. Please consult with your local health department to best assess flu compliance within your school.

The following bullet points may assist you with the interpretation of the flu vaccination requirement:

- *Children who get vaccinated with the seasonal flu vaccine prior to September 1 will be considered compliant as long as the vaccine is for the current flu season.*
- *Students who have not received the flu vaccine by December 31 must be excluded from school for the duration of influenza season (through March 31), until they receive at least one dose of the flu vaccine or until they turn 60 months of age (5 years old).*
- *Valid medical and religious exemptions are acceptable. Students who have valid medical and religious exemptions are allowed to remain in school. Please note that schools must have documentation of exemptions on file and they need to be available at the time of a local health department immunization audit. **Do NOT include students with exemptions on the Flu Vaccine Tracking form.***

- *Students enrolled after December 31 must provide documentation that they received the current flu vaccine prior to entering school.*
- *Those children turning six months of age after December 31 must also receive the current flu vaccine.*
- *Although students enrolling in school after March 31 are not required to get vaccinated against flu, getting a flu vaccine even late in the season is still protective.*

For complete information about influenza vaccine requirements, visit “NJ Immunization Requirements Frequently Asked Questions” available at http://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/vaccine_qa.pdf

Thank you for your commitment to protecting our schools and communities. Your dedicated efforts are greatly appreciated and will help protect students, schools and communities from vaccine preventable diseases.