



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Acting Commissioner

October 28, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Administrators for Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

FROM: Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services and Career Readiness

SUBJECT: Guidance on Ebola Resources and Protocol

The health and safety of the children in our schools is a top priority for all of us. It is important for everyone to understand the signs and symptoms of the Ebola virus, how the Ebola virus could affect students and families in our State, and how to adequately prepare and respond as necessary. Accordingly, I write to you today to advise you of a webinar that we will be hosting for school nurses, to remind district leaders of the regulations applicable to enrolling new students, and to provide you with resources that your district may wish to utilize.

I. Webinar for School Nurses to be Held on Monday, November 3, 2014

A webinar for New Jersey school nurses regarding the signs and symptoms of Ebola, standard operating procedures, universal precautions, management of symptomatic students, and coordination with State and local health officials is scheduled for Monday, November 3, 2014, at 2 p.m. Registration is limited to one staff member per district and a total of 500 participants.

To register, please go to the New Jersey Department of Education Calendar & Events page at <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>. The Department will consider hosting additional webinars if additional information needs to be conveyed in this format. Nonetheless, the information contained in the November 3rd webinar will be recorded and posted on November 5, 2014 at <http://www.nj.gov/education/students/safety/health/cdpr/ebola/>.

II. Enrollment of New Students

The Department has consistently maintained that school districts are prohibited from implementing discriminatory enrollment practices, intentionally or unintentionally, that may exclude children from enrolling in public school based on their immigration status. According to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.1(h), enrollment of eligible students cannot be denied based on the absence of a student's medical information; however, actual attendance may be deferred until the student complies with student immunization rules under N.J.A.C. 8:57-4. However, these rules provide

for provisional admission for those children transferring into a New Jersey school, preschool, or child-care center from out-of-state or out-of-country allowing a 30-day grace period in order to obtain past immunization documentation before provisional status begins. N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5(e). N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)2 requires schools to ensure that each student receives a medical examination upon enrollment, however, the parent has 30 days from the time of enrollment to provide the entry-examination documentation. Additionally, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(g) requires the school district to provide the medical examination by the school physician if the student does not have a medical provider.

III. Resources on Ebola

The Department has compiled the following resources, which are immediately available for use in your districts:

- A fact sheet developed by the New Jersey Department of Health titled “Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Interim Guidance for K-12 Schools for Students Arriving From Ebola-Affected Areas”: http://nj.gov/health/cd/vhf/documents/ebola_school_guidance.pdf
- A frequently asked questions and answers on Ebola document developed by the New Jersey Department of Health: http://nj.gov/health/cd/vhf/documents/ebola_faq.pdf
- A classroom guidance lesson for elementary and high school students to help deal with student’s reaction to Ebola and tips on how to talk to children about Ebola: <http://www.nj.gov/education/students/safety/health/cdpr/ebola/>; and
- An information sheet developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ebola-factsheet.pdf> and a one-page graphic <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/infographic.pdf>.

IV. Continued Updates

The Department will continue to distribute additional guidance and resources through our weekly broadcast and our website as it becomes available. In addition, direct questions may be submitted to healthyschools@doe.state.nj.us.