

## The Decision is Yours

The new Antibody Titer Law gives parents a choice BEFORE they consent to a second dose of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.



A Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) should be provided to you each time a vaccine is given. Make sure to READ and UNDERSTAND each VIS before getting vaccines for your child.



Talk to your health care provider to learn more about the MMR vaccine, the titer law, and making good decisions about your child's health.

## For More Information

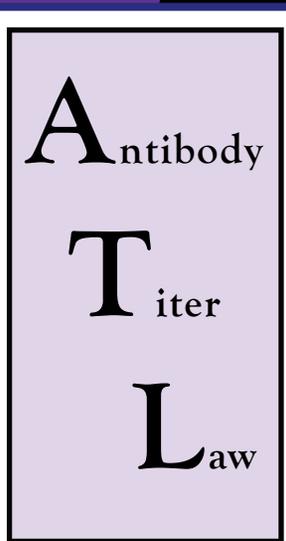
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services,  
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program  
P.O. Box 369  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0369  
Phone: 609-826-4860  
[www.nj.gov/health/cd/vpdp/](http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/vpdp/)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
[www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)

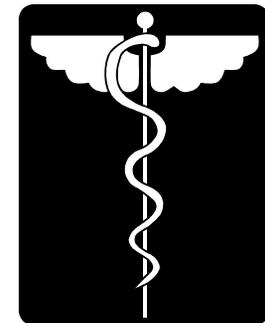
On the Internet  
[http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2002/Bills/PL03/257\\_.PDF](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2002/Bills/PL03/257_.PDF)



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Information for  
Parents



Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor



Poonam Alaigh,  
MD, MSHCPM, FACP  
Commissioner

# The Law



The Antibody Titer Law (Holly's Law) (NJSA 26:2N-8-11), passed on January 14, 2004, concerns vaccination of children with the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The law allows parents to seek testing to determine a child's immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella, before receiving the second dose of the vaccine.



This brochure has been prepared by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services to assist parents in making the decisions related to the MMR vaccine and the test.

## The Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine

Measles, mumps and rubella are serious diseases caused by viruses. These diseases can result in brain damage, pneumonia, deafness, infection of the brain and spinal cord covering, and even death.



Required by New Jersey law, a vaccine called MMR is routinely given to children to protect them from these diseases. According to the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), children should receive two doses of the vaccine because about 2%-5% of people do not develop immunity\* after the first dose of vaccine. The first dose is usually given at 12-15 months of age and the second dose is usually given at 4-6 years of age. The second dose is not a "booster"; it is intended to produce immunity in the people who did not respond to the first dose.

## Antibody Titer

An antibody titer (pronounced ty-ter) is a test that can be done to find out if your child is immune. For this test, a blood sample is sent to a laboratory and tested for antibodies.\*\* If a person has developed a sufficient level of antibodies, they may not need the second dose of vaccine.

Written laboratory proof of immunity exempts a child from the 2nd dose of MMR vaccine.



\*Immunity—Protection against a disease. Immunity is indicated by the presence of antibodies in the blood and can usually be determined with a laboratory test. Immunity can come from contracting a disease or through vaccination.

\*\*Antibody—A protein found in the blood that is produced in response to foreign substances (e.g., bacterial or viruses) invading the body. Antibodies protect the body from disease by binding to these organisms and destroying them.