

Annual Immunization Status Report (ASR)

Data Collection and Methodology

Background/Data Collection:

All students attending public and nonpublic schools including licensed childcare and preschool facilities must be vaccinated in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 8:57-4, Immunizations of Pupils in School. All New Jersey public and nonpublic schools including childcare and preschool facilities must submit an Annual Immunization Status Report (ASR) in accordance with this same subchapter. The mandatory ASR is a self-reported survey that is used to assess immunization coverage with mandated vaccines among students enrolled in childcare/preschool, Kindergarten/Grade 1 (entry level), Grade 6, and Transfer students in any grade. These data will also assist State and local health departments in identifying areas of low vaccination coverage.

The ASR is distributed to approximately 6,100 schools annually in November with a due date of February 1st. The reporting time frame is from September 1 to December 31st.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:52, Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health, local health agencies must conduct immunization audits of school, preschool and childcare facilities. Annual auditing is considered a best practice to capture accurate, current, and relevant data for assessing immunization status of a community and vulnerability during a potential outbreak. These public health audits serve to validate the self-reported ASR data submitted by facilities and assist with portraying a more accurate snapshot of immunization rates among New Jersey children attending schools, childcare, and preschool facilities.

Methods:

The total enrollment reported by the facility for each grade is used as the total enrollment. For facilities that did not report total enrollment, enrollment is calculated by summing the reported number of students in each vaccination status category including students: 1) meeting all immunization requirements, 2) provisionally admitted, 3) reporting medical exemptions, 4) reporting religious exemptions, and 5) out of compliance.

For schools and childcare centers with inconsistencies in their self-reported data, data were either adjusted according to a standard procedure or were cleared out for the specific grade level in which the inconsistency was found.

The Influenza Vaccine Implementation Survey (IVIS) is an *optional* module in the Annual Immunization Status report. It is to be completed by preschools and childcare centers with children in attendance between the ages of six through 59 months. Because the IVIS is optional, the total enrollment in the Pre-Kindergarten Influenza by County report is lower than the total Pre-Kindergarten enrollment on the All Schools reports.