



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF HIV, STD AND TB SERVICES
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Acting Commissioner

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County Superintendents of Schools
District School Superintendents
School Nurses

This is the guidance for the New Jersey Department of Education regarding Tuberculosis (TB) screening of students as a condition for admission to New Jersey schools. This guidance also addresses the screening of employees and other adults having direct contact with the student population.

The current recommendation is for testing in only two groups of students;

- Those entering a school system in the United States for the first time, if born in a high TB incidence country (**not** listed on page 3 of the guidance), and
- Those transferring to the New Jersey school system directly from a high TB incidence country (**not** listed on page 3 of the guidance).

A tuberculosis test shall be given upon employment to all newly hired employees (full-time and part-time), all student teachers, school bus drivers on contract with the district and other persons (e.g., volunteers) who have contact with students.

NOTE: An interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test or a Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST) is acceptable for tuberculosis screening in schools.

A “positive” IGRA or “10mm” or greater induration on a TST shall be considered a “significant reaction” and requires a subsequent medical evaluation to rule out active disease. Any person with symptoms of pulmonary TB should be evaluated regardless the result of the IGRA or TST and excluded from school until disease is ruled out or they are no longer considered infectious, as indicated in writing by a licensed physician.

Reporting Requirements

Schools are **no longer** required to submit the “Annual Report of TB Testing in Schools” (TB-57 form) to the New Jersey Department of Health, TB Program. Schools may continue to use the TB-57 for internal purposes in accordance with local school district policy.

Religious Exemption

The Office of the Attorney General has advised that religious exemption cannot be denied for TB testing in schools. See the Religious Exemption-School TB Testing/Symptom Assessment Form, TB-8, for alternate testing protocol if religious exemption is claimed by a student or employee required to be tested under this guidance.

Additional Resources

All tuberculosis forms can be found on the TB Website, under the “FORMS” tab:
<https://healthapps.state.nj.us/forms/subforms.aspx?pro=aids#tb>

New Jersey State School Nurses Association
School Nursing Practice in New Jersey’s Public Schools:
https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/bef1bbde-7dc0-4987-a54f-33b3bade9518/UploadedImages/NJSSNA_Document_Final2.pdf

If you have any questions concerning the application of the TB testing guidance, please contact the NJ Department of Education at (609) 292-5935 for administrative questions and concerns or the NJ DOH TB Program at (609) 826-4878 for questions regarding placing and reading tuberculin skin tests or IGRA.

Sincerely,

Frank Romano

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Division of HIV, STD and TB Services