

New Jersey Department of Health Tuberculosis Program

Tuberculosis Testing in New Jersey Schools

Justification: To limit tuberculosis screening in New Jersey schools to teachers/other employees and only those students who are at highest risk for latent TB infection.

- I. **Only a positive interferon gamma release assay test result or a Mantoux intradermal test using 5 TU of stabilized PPD tuberculin skin test result measuring \geq 10mm of induration shall be considered a “significant reaction” and evidence of latent TB infection.**
- II. **The following tuberculosis testing requirements apply to ALL school districts:**
 1. **Students born in a country that is not listed on page 3 and entering school in the U.S. for the first time, regardless of age or grade.**
 2. **Students transferring into the New Jersey school system directly from a country not listed on page 3, regardless of age or grade.**

EXCEPTIONS FOR BOTH GROUPS OF STUDENTS LISTED ABOVE:

Entering at preschool through grade 5: Tuberculosis testing is not required if the student has documentation of an IGRA or Mantoux tuberculin skin test at the age of three years or older, regardless of the result of that test.

Entering at grades 6 through 12: Tuberculosis testing is not required if the student has documentation of a negative tuberculosis test in the last six months or a positive test, regardless when this test was done.

Tuberculosis testing is not required if the student has attended school in another state prior to entering the New Jersey school system.

Any student with parents claiming religious exemption (TB-8 Form) cannot be compelled to submit to tuberculosis testing. In these instances, a symptom assessment must be done (TB-8 Form). If TB-like symptoms are reported, a physician must document that the student does not have active disease. Each school district is responsible for determining the criteria essential to document a valid religious exemption.

3. Teachers and Other Employees

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.

EXEMPTIONS:

Tuberculosis testing is not required for volunteers working with pupils for less than 20 hours per month.

Tuberculosis testing is not required for new employees, student teachers and contractors of the district with a documented negative tuberculosis test result in the last six months or a documented positive tuberculosis test, regardless of when this test was done.

Tuberculosis testing is **not required** for a school employee transferring between school districts or from a non-public school within New Jersey with a documented tuberculosis test result upon his/her initial employment by a New Jersey school.

Employees, student teachers, contractors or volunteers who have contact with students and claim religious exemption cannot be compelled to submit to tuberculosis testing. In these instances, a symptom assessment must be done (TB-8 Form). If TB-like symptoms are reported, a physician must document that the employee, student teacher, contractor or volunteer does not have active disease. Each school district is responsible for determining the criteria essential to document a valid religious exemption.

**THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES HAVE A LOW INCIDENCE OF TB AND
REQUIRE NO TB TESTING**

Albania	Jamaica
America Samoa	Jordan
Andorra	Lebanon
Antigua and Barbuda	Luxembourg
Australia	Malta
Austria	Monaco
Barbados	Montserrat
Belgium	Netherlands
Bermuda	Netherlands Antilles
British Virgin Islands	New Zealand
Canada	North Ireland
Cayman Islands	Norway
Chile	Oman
Cook Islands	Puerto Rico
Costa Rica	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cuba	St. Lucia
Cyprus	Samoa
Czech Republic	San Marino
Denmark	Slovakia
Dominica	Slovenia
Finland	Sweden
France	Switzerland
Germany	Trinidad and Tobago
Greece	Turks and Caicos Islands
Greenland	United Arab Emirates
Grenada	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Iceland	United States of America
Ireland	United States Virgin Islands
Israel	
Italy	
Hungary	

Students entering a U.S. school for the first time in New Jersey or transferring into a New Jersey school from ANY country NOT listed above must receive an IGRA or Mantoux tuberculin skin test unless they meet an exemption criterion.