

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program

**Annual Immunization Status Report (IMM-7)
Special Notice
February 2010**

What is an IMM-7?

IMM-7 is the Annual Immunization Status Report that assesses the immunization status of students in preschool, childcare, and schools (both public and nonpublic).

Who needs to fill out the IMM-7?

All New Jersey schools (preschool through high school) need to complete the IMM-7 report in its entirety. Summer camps, after-school programs, before-school programs, and sick childcare should not fill out the report.

When is the IMM-7 due?

The 2009-2010 Annual Immunization Status Report is due on March 5th, 2010. Any school or child care center that does not submit the required report by the deadline date will be considered delinquent. Delinquencies may be referred to the New Jersey State Department of Education, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, and/or the local health department.

Who is included in the IMM-7?

The IMM-7 must contain information on all children in preschool and childcare facilities, all Kindergarten students, new school entrants in Grade 1, all Grade 6 students, and transfer students. New entrants in Grade 1 are defined as all children first entering a New Jersey school at the Grade 1 level who did not attend a kindergarten class in New Jersey. Transfer students only include students who are transferring from out-of-state or out-of country. Do not include those pupils transferring within New Jersey in this category. All transfer students into Kindergarten, Grade 1, or Grade 6 need to be included with their grade, and not as transfer students. Transfer students entering grades 2-5 and grade 7 and above must be included in the transfer column.

What is the reporting time frame for the IMM-7?

Report on student status during the period of September 1, 2009 to March 5, 2010 only. (This is a change from previous years where you had to report on students from September to December.) Do **not** include children who entered or transferred in to a NJ school on or after January 1, 2009 to August 31, 2009.

How to fill out and submit the IMM-7?

The IMM-7 report can be accessed and submitted on-line at <http://nj.gov/health/cd/imm7/annualstatusrpt.shtml>. If a school does not have internet access, the internet can usually be accessed at local public libraries and/or some other municipal locations. Schools that are unable to submit the IMM-7 or the requested influenza requirement implementation survey on-line should contact the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP) at (609) 826-4860.

All schools are required to complete the entire top half of the IMM-7, even if no pupils fall into the grades or category of students that are reported.

Place numbers in the appropriate boxes in the report table on the lower half of the IMM-7. Do **not** perform any mathematical calculations (summing columns or rows.) The New Jersey Minimal Immunization Requirements table may be useful in filling out the lower half of the IMM-7. The immunization table is accessible at <http://nj.gov/health/cd/vpdphome.htm>, under the subheading Annual Immunization Status Report. Schools that need help completing the report table can contact their respective Local Health Agency or Child Care Health Consultant Coordinators (if applicable). Schools that have general questions about the status report can call the VPDP at (609) 826-4860.

Is the seasonal influenza vaccine required for preschool and childcare attendance during the 2009-2010 school year?

According to the guidance sent out in November 2009, the seasonal influenza requirement was suspended for the 2009-2010 school year.

“Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.22(d), the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services (the Department) determined that due to limited vaccine availability it is appropriate and reasonable to temporarily suspend for the 2009-2010 academic year the mandatory requirement...”

However, the guidance also continues to highly recommend that preschool-aged students receive the seasonal influenza vaccine.

“The Department believes that widespread use of influenza vaccine among preschool-aged children will decrease the incidence of influenza among children and adults.”

Individuals in need of a flu vaccine should be directed to the Department’s internet address for the Find a Flu Shot Locator at <http://nj.gov/health/flu/findflushot.shtml>, or to www.google.com/flushot for vaccine clinics. In addition, the Department implemented a toll-free hotline (1-866-321-9571) operating week days to provide general information about vaccine availability.

Individuals who have not received the seasonal flu vaccine but meet all other immunization requirements should be included under “Meets all Immunization Requirements” category on the Annual Immunization Status Report.

Why is there a survey on influenza vaccinations when the 2009-2010 requirement was waived?

Even without the influenza vaccine requirement in the 2009-2010 school year, the NJDHSS needs to evaluate the compliance with and the effectiveness of the recent influenza vaccination programs for preschool aged children. The VPDP needs your assistance and cooperation in filling out the voluntary survey located at the bottom of the ASR webpage, and would appreciate your taking a small amount of time to fill out the influenza survey. The survey will enable VPDP to gather and assess information on:

- influenza vaccination coverage, including geographic and school variables,
- exemption rates related to only the influenza vaccination, and
- the appropriate amount of influenza vaccine that needs to be manufactured and ordered to protect New Jersey’s preschool aged children.

Why is there a survey on varicella (chickenpox)?

A vaccine for varicella (chickenpox) was licensed in the United States in 1995 and subsequently added as a requirement for school and childcare entry in New Jersey in September 2004. In April 2009, varicella became reportable in order to characterize the burden of disease within the state. Since this is a new requirement, we recognize that there will be difficulties with implementation. Through this survey, we wish to evaluate:

- opinions regarding reporting requirements
- barriers to reporting
- the level of reporting achieved to date

This survey should be completed by a school nurse or, for childcare centers and preschools without a school nurse, by the school administrator. The survey should take under 10 minutes to complete. We appreciate your time and effort to assist us with this evaluation. For questions regarding this survey, please contact Dr. Samantha Pitts at (609) 826-5964.