



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF HIV, STD AND TB SERVICES  
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[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

CATHLEEN D. BENNETT  
Commissioner

August 8, 2016

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).

**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.

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>

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*

Frank Romano, MPH  
Tuberculosis Program Manager  
Division of HIV, STD and TB Services

Cc: Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Education

Cc: Kelly Allen, Manager, Office of Student Support Services, Department of Education