

Subject: Alignment with ACIP Recommendations

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Dear NJ Department of Health,

I am submitting this public comment on the proposed amendment to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3. While I support safe schools and evidence-based public health measures, I have serious concerns about tying New Jersey's school and child care immunization requirements directly to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Does this mean that the NJ Department of Health will:

- Automatically adopt all federal ACIP recommendations as binding in New Jersey without state legislative review or public comment?
- Place non-medical school and child care administrators in the position of enforcing a changing federal immunization schedule?
- Risk excluding children for paperwork delays, misunderstanding of exemptions, or timing issues rather than genuine public-health risk?
- Disproportionately harm low-income, immigrant, or religious families who face barriers to documentation or pediatric care?

I respectfully urge NJDOH to:

- Remove language that ties vaccine mandates automatically to ACIP recommendations;
- Ensure all vaccine requirement changes go through New Jersey's normal rulemaking or legislative process with full public input;
- Provide clear due-process protections, including notice, grace periods, and appeals before any exclusion;
- Limit administrators' role to record collection, not medical judgment or enforcement;
- Conduct equity and privacy impact assessments to ensure vulnerable populations are not unfairly excluded.

New Jersey families support public health, but major immunization policies must be transparent, state-led, and protective of students' rights and access to education. Please revise the proposed amendment before it is adopted.

Thank you for considering this comment.