



Date: October 1, 2026

Public Health Message Type: ☐ Alert ☒ Advisory ☐ Update ☐ Information

Intended Audience: ☐ All public health partners ☐ Healthcare providers ☐ Infection preventionists
☒ Local health departments ☐ Schools/child care centers ☐ ACOs
☐ Animal health professionals ☐ Other:

Key Points or Updates: New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Immunization Guidance for Adults Age 65 and Older and Current Guidelines Set Forth in the Appendix of N.J.A.C. 8:52

Action Items: Local boards of health and local health departments should disregard the current guidelines set forth in the Appendix of N.J.A.C. 8:52, regarding “Health services for older adults,” section (a)6, which recommend that immunizations be provided in accordance with Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. Regarding immunization guidance for adults age 65 and older, the recommendations of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) should be followed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.8. The Commissioner of the NJDOH has issued Executive Directive No. 26-003, effective September 28, 2026, which adopts vaccination schedule recommendations for all ages, including adults age 65 and older. The vaccination schedule recommendations adopted by Executive Directive No. 26-003 should be followed in lieu of the current guidelines set forth in section (a)6 of the Appendix of N.J.A.C. 8:52.

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Background and Reason for this Administrative Advisory

By authority of N.J.S.A. 26:1A-15 and N.J.S.A 26:3A2-1, *et seq.*, the NJNJDOH developed and maintains the Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey, at N.J.A.C. 8:52, *et seq.* (Rule 52). Rule 52 currently includes an Appendix entitled “PROGRAMMATIC GUIDELINES FOR BEST PRACTICES,” which includes a section entitled “Health services for older adults,” set forth, in pertinent part, below:

Health services for older adults

(a) The local board of health shall provide for a health program at locations selected by the health department which identifies the health needs of adults age 65 and older, and shall:

...

6. Provide immunizations (for example, influenza and pneumococcal vaccines) at the discretion of the local health agency in accordance with the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Around March 2026, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts issued a preliminary injunction that halted the work of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), referred to as the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee in the Appendix section quoted above. Pursuant to the preliminary injunction, votes and recommendations made by the ACIP since January 2026 were stayed and federal vaccine recommendations for children and adults reverted to the guidelines that were in place prior to January 2026, at which time the ACIP began issuing administrative memoranda that substantially changed existing immunization guidance. The preliminary injunction remains in effect and is expected to continue indefinitely.

Further, in January 2026, Governor Murphy signed legislation, S4894/A6166, in which New Jersey statutes that reference ACIP as the source for recommendations concerning vaccinations and immunizations are amended to designate the NJDOH as the source for recommendations concerning vaccinations and immunizations, instead of ACIP.

Also in January 2026, the NJDOH published amendments to N.J.A.C. Chapter 57: "Reportable Communicable Diseases, Infections, and Conditions; Reportable Zoonotic Diseases Occurring in Animals; Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System; New Jersey Immunization Information System; Childhood Immunization; and Immunization of Collegians," which include provision for NJDOH procedure for the establishment of vaccine-preventable disease immunization recommendations and requirements, at N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.8.

Accordingly, the NJDOH has issued this Administrative Advisory to inform local boards of health and local health departments of the circumstances involving ACIP, as described above, and to clear up any confusion that may arise from the existing language contained in the Rule 52 Appendix that references ACIP.

Administrative Advisory

Due to current legal circumstances involving the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), local boards of health and local health departments should disregard the current guidelines set forth in the Appendix of N.J.A.C. 8:52, regarding "Health services for older adults," section (a)6, which recommend that immunizations be provided in accordance with ACIP recommendations. Regarding immunization guidance for adults age 65 and older, the recommendations of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) should be followed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.8. In response to the circumstances concerning the ACIP, Executive Directive No. 26-003, was issued by the Commissioner of the NJDOH on September 28, 2026, which adopts vaccination schedule recommendations for all ages, including adults age 65 and older. The vaccination schedule recommendations adopted by Executive Directive No. 26-003 should be followed in lieu of the current guidelines set forth in section (a)6 of the Appendix of N.J.A.C. 8:52.