



NJCV.C.ORG

The New Jersey Coalition for Vaccination Choice (NJCV.C) is a **VOLUNTEER**, non-profit, **non-partisan**, grassroots advocacy organization focused on promoting vaccination choice, informed consent and individualized medical decision making.

NJCVC focus

- As an organization, vaccination choice is the issue. NJCVC is NON-PARTISAN.
- Members may be interested in other issues, but the organization WILL NOT take an active roll in lobbying for any other issue.
- We can't afford to "water down" our focus.
- As a member, you don't necessarily need to "represent" NJCVC at legislative meetings.

Remember the issue....

We seek to preserve, maintain and/or restore the RIGHT to make individual medical decisions around the use of vaccination.

We support people who wish to accept or decline vaccination.

We oppose mandates that interfere with these personal decisions.

Know your representatives and the committees they are on



State Legislators : njleg.state.nj.us

There are 40 legislative districts in NJ, each with one Senator and two Assembly members



Congress: congress.gov/contact-us

There are TWO statewide Senators and Fourteen Congressional Districts with one Representative each in Congress.

Effective Communication

- Always Be Respectful
- Have a Positive Tone
- Don't Attack
- Find Common Ground (build bridges)
- Relay a Personal Story
- Make a Specific Request
- Be a Resource

Effective Communication (continued)

- **Credibility is Key.** – once it is lost, you can't get it back. It is OK not to know everything and follow up later.
- **Relationships and TRUST need to be Built.** The goal of a meeting is to have continued dialog and meetings.
- **A BIG NO-NO – “I am a voter, you work for me.”**
- (Unless you want to immediately shut down any communication.)

Communication with Offices

- State your case politely and clearly and respectfully.
 - Keep questions clear and specific.
 - Document date, time and person you spoke to.
 - Send a follow-up email reiterating important points.
 - Always send a thank you following a meeting.
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- Being a legislator is a part-time job (often with full-time hours), they rely on staff, lobbyists, and constituents for information.

Know Your Audience

- Be aware of the social and political climate.
- Ask yourself – Is this the right time?
- Research the interests and background of the person you are speaking to.
- Know the sources that your audience reads and respects.
- Don't try and fit a square peg in a round hole.

Local Involvement

- Show up and be present.
- Participate in zoom calls and conferences.
- Attend Public Events with colleagues.
- Bring materials (not too many) to meetings to leave behind. It is impossible for a legislator to remember all that you have discussed.

Getting your message out

- Letters to the Editor:
- Opinion Pieces – Guest Column/OpED

- Know submission guidelines
- Know submission deadlines
- Know word/character limits

Always include name, title (if you have one), address, phone, email

Where to find NJ School Vaccine Information

August 2020

NJ Dept. of Health Vaccine Information

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/imm_requirements/

This page contains links to New Jersey vaccine requirements for preschool/daycare, K-12 and college.

Remember that school requirements are based on the CDC recommended vaccine schedule but they are not always the same. (For example, the CDC recommends 2 doses of varicella vaccine, NJ only requires one for school entry)

School nurses follow NJ statutes and NJDOH guidelines to ensure students meet school immunization requirements or have an exemption on file.

Frequently Asked Questions Booklet

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/imm_requirements/vaccine_ga.pdf

This resource answers almost any question you might have about New Jersey school vaccine requirements including preschool influenza vaccine, Holly's Law (titer levels), exclusions and exemptions (pages 30-33).

New information is highlighted in yellow.

Memo Regarding Medical and Religious Exemptions

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/imm_requirements/religious_exemption.pdf

Medical and Religious Exemptions to vaccination are explained here (and in the FAQ Booklet). This is where you can find the following statement regarding religious exemptions:

“When a parent or guardian submits a written, signed request for exemption from mandatory immunization(s) due to religious beliefs, the statement should be accepted and the religious exemption granted. The request does not need to identify membership in a recognized church or religious denomination or describe how the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the student’s religious beliefs in order for the request to be granted. Religious affiliated schools or child care centers shall have the authority to withhold or grant a religious exemption from the required immunization for pupils entering or attending their institutions without challenge by any secular health authority.”