

In December 2007, the NJ Public Health Council, a group of seven volunteer, unelected, governor-appointed officials, including lawyers and dentists, voted to add four new vaccine **mandates**, beginning Sept. 2008. Days later, shortly before he retired, former NJ Health Commissioner Fred Jacobs signed them into NJ law.

The four new mandatory shots are now added to the already crowded schedule of vaccines as a requirement to attend daycare or pre-school in New Jersey, effective September 2008. NJ now mandates more shots than any other state. The new mandates are as follows along with reasons to question their mandatory status:

1. Annual Influenza vaccine for children 6 to 59 months
 - Most studies confirm that the flu shot is neither effective nor safe for children under 2
 - Seasonal reformulation of flu shots precludes any long term safety data. The CDC does comment each year, however, on the ineffectiveness of the vaccine because circulating strains don't match the vaccine.
 - More than 90% of the flu shots given in the 2007-08 flu season contained high levels of thimerosal/mercury
 - The amount of mercury in a typical pediatric dose of flu shot, which will be given each year, exceeds the safety limit established by the EPA for a 550 pound person.
 - The first time flu shot for anyone, including 6 month olds, is a double dose, 2 shots
 - Flu shots contain eggs, however most 6 month olds with severe egg allergies will not have introduced solid foods yet. There is potential for anaphylactic reaction.
2. Pneumococcal (Prevnar) series shot for children aged only **2 months!** to 59 months
 - Is a "7-in-1" containing at least 7 viruses in one dose
 - This genetically engineered vaccine has been poorly tested, is ineffective and unusually prone to adverse effects. There is also growing evidence that this shot's effectiveness is rapidly diminishing due to changes in the ecology of pneumococcal organisms; it has been linked to the development of antibiotic-resistant strains of pneumococcus.
3. Tetanus-Diphtheria-Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) booster for sixth-graders
 - In addition to the attenuated viruses, the vaccine includes formaldehyde and high levels of aluminum, a known neurotoxin.
 - Adverse reactions include encephalitis, convulsions, facial palsy, diabetes, and death.
 - Now a 5 dose series that requires continual boosters since long-term studies have not been done to confirm the length of effectiveness. When we started immunizing, we were told it would create lifetime immunity. They now want to add more and more boosters as children age. When will it stop?
4. Meningococcal vaccine for sixth-graders
 - Adverse reactions include Anorexia, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, myalgia, facial palsy, and encephalomyelitis
 - NJ Dept. of Health recommends the conjugate version (Menactra) which is not effective against the meningococcus strain B that comprises 55% of meningitis cases in the US

New Jersey is the first jurisdiction anywhere in the world to make flu shots and meningococcal shots compulsory. Additionally, none of the vaccines have been evaluated for carcinogenic or mutagenic potential, or for impairment of fertility.

Until such time that we can AT LEAST assure supply such that all children can receive thimerosal-free influenza and meningitis vaccine, **AND** until real and rigorous medical studies support mandatory childhood influenza vaccine as public health policy, many in this Coalition believe it is medically and scientifically irresponsible to mandate such vaccination.

***No clinical trials have EVER been done to study
the collective effects of all these vaccines!***

We oppose New Jersey mandating more vaccines taking effect in September 2008. We NEED vaccination choice, a conscientious exemption, in New Jersey. 19 other states already provide a similar exemption.

If school children are expected to have these new shots to **get into** daycare or school in the fall, parents need to be aware of the current religious and medical exemptions **as soon as possible**. Additionally, parents deserve the Conscientious Exemption to Mandatory Vaccinations Legislation, bill A260/S1071 passed and signed into law immediately.