



Department of Health

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IMPORTANT NEWS FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD-CARE FACILITIES

Each year, to comply with New York State Public Health Law (PHL) § 613, licensed and registered day care programs, nursery schools, pre-K, kindergarten, school-age child care programs, and public and non-public schools are required to post information about influenza (flu) and the benefits of flu vaccination at the start of flu season in early fall. This year, flu vaccination is more important than ever because the flu and the virus that causes COVID-19 may both be spreading. Flu vaccination will help reduce the spread of flu and help ease the burden on our health care system.

Information must be posted starting now in “plain view” in your facility where visitors can easily see it. If school is still being conducted remotely in fall 2020, the information should be posted electronically and/or e-mailed or mailed to families of all students. To help you comply with this requirement we’re sending the publication, ***Parents: Fight Flu at Home and School***. It is geared to parents and guardians and explains why flu is serious, provides signs and symptoms of the disease, and recommends annual flu vaccination to protect children from flu. Feel free to print and post this publication. It is available, along with other flu information, for free and in multiple languages here:

- The New York State Department of Health
www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/child_care_and_schools/

Additional free materials about flu and flu vaccination are also available from the organizations listed below. Please feel free to choose information from these sites if you prefer:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/freeresources/print/index.htm
- Information specific to New York City Schools is available through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene here:
www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/flu-seasonal.page

The flu vaccine is the best way to prevent flu. It is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older every year. Getting vaccinated can prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths in children. The vaccine can also reduce flu illnesses, doctor’s visits, and missed work and school days.

If you have questions about complying with PHL§ 613, please feel free to contact the State Health Department’s Bureau of Immunization at immunize@health.ny.gov or call (518) 473-4437.

Thank you for helping educate families about flu and the importance of flu vaccination.

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