



IMPORTANT NEWS FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE 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 childcare 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. Flu vaccination is more important than ever because the flu, RSV, and the virus that causes COVID-19 may all be spreading. Flu vaccination will help reduce the spread of flu, ease the burden on our health care system, and reduce the number of illnesses that interrupt education and lead to absences.

Information must be posted starting now “in plain view” in your facility where visitors can easily see it, **or** posted electronically, 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.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/index.htm>
- Information specific to New York City Schools is available through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:
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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