



Department of Health

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IMPORTANT NEWS FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

Each year, at the start of flu season in early fall, you must post information about influenza (flu) and the benefits of vaccination. This is to comply with New York State Public Health Law § 613. It applies to licensed and registered day care programs, nursery schools, pre-K, kindergarten, school-age childcare programs, and public and nonpublic schools. Flu vaccination is more important than ever because the flu, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and the virus that causes COVID-19 may all be spread at the same time.

Flu vaccination will help protect your child, reduce the spread of flu, and ease the burden on our health care system. It will also reduce the number of illnesses that interrupt education and lead to absences. To help you comply with this requirement we're sending the publication, ***Parents: Fight the Flu at Home and School***. It is geared to parents and guardians. This publication explains why flu is serious, provides signs and symptoms of the disease, and recommends annual flu vaccination to protect children from flu. Please print and post this publication. It is available, along with other flu information, for free and in multiple languages:

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

More free materials about flu and flu vaccination are also available from the organizations listed below.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
cdc.gov/flu/resource-center
- Information specific to New York City Schools is available through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:
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 Division of Vaccine Excellence at immunize@health.ny.gov or call (518) 473-4437.

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