

Important News for Schools and Child-Care Facilities

What: Schools and child-care settings are now required to post influenza educational material, in plain view, within their facilities. **Information should be posted starting now.** Influenza season begins in early fall and can last through May.

Outreach to parents and guardians of children ages 6 months to 18 years is directed to those whose children attend:

- Licensed and registered day-care programs
- Nursery schools
- Prekindergarten
- Kindergarten
- School-age child-care programs
- Public schools
- Nonpublic schools

This requirement is in response to an amendment to New York State Public Health Law (PHL) section §613. To view amended PHL §613 in its entirety, visit the “Recommended Vaccinations” Web page below, scroll down to “Looking for Information on Vaccine Laws?” and follow directions for “Influenza Education Public Health Law Amendment.”

www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/recommended_vaccinations.htm

Purpose: To ensure that families of these children receive information on influenza and the benefits of influenza immunizations in connection with efforts to raise the immunity of children against influenza.

The NYSDOH would like you to know that information regarding influenza and the benefits of influenza immunizations is free, accessible and available in different languages from several organizations:

- NYSDOH: www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/childhood_adolescent/
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/print.htm
- NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene: www.nyc.gov/html/doh/flu/html/home/home.shtml

Along with this announcement you will find our *Seasonal Flu Guide for Parents*. This guide is an example of information that is geared towards parents and guardians. It explains why seasonal influenza is serious, provides signs of influenza and tells parents and guardians how to protect their children from influenza by getting them vaccinated. Your facility is welcome to copy and post this guide, or use information you find from the other organizations above.

If you have questions about this amended PHL, please contact the NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization at immunize@health.state.ny.us or 518/473-4437.