



## 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, schools and child-care centers are required to post information about influenza (flu) and the benefits of flu vaccination at the start of flu season. Flu season begins in early fall and can last through May. **Information must be posted starting now, in “plain view” in your facility where visitors can easily see it.**

To help you comply with this requirement we’re sending a new 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’s 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/](http://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](http://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](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/flu-seasonal.page)

The flu vaccine is the best way to prevent flu. It’s 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 any questions about complying with PHL§ 613, please feel free to contact the State Health Department’s Bureau of Immunization at [immunize@health.ny.gov](mailto: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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