NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

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Important News for Schools and Child-Care Facilities

What: An amendment to public health law (PHL) section § 613 directs the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) Commissioner of Health to provide families of children between 6 months and 18 years of age who attend certain child-care settings, public schools and nonpublic schools with educational materials on influenza and the benefits of influenza immunizations.

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."
http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization/recommended_vaccinations.htm

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

How does this amended PHL affect my school or child-care facility?

Schools and child-care settings are now required to post influenza educational material, in plain view, within their facilities.

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

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

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

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

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.

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