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To: Massachusetts School Administrators, School Nurses, and Educators

From: Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH, Director, Immunization Division

RE: Influenza Education

Date: September 2025

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) would like to remind all Massachusetts schools and early education providers that legislation, [An Act Relative to Immunization Awareness](#) (MGL c.111, § 229), became effective in 2013, which requires all elementary and secondary schools and all providers of early education to distribute to parents and guardians information regarding the benefits of annual influenza vaccination for children 6 months to 18 years of age. This information shall include the causes and symptoms of the disease, how it is spread, how to obtain additional information regarding the disease, and the effectiveness and risks of vaccination.

Distribution of the flyer, [The Flu: A Guide for Parents](#), will meet the requirements of this legislation. We encourage you to distribute this to parents through all normal communication channels, including sending it home with students, email, newsletters, and posting it on your website. The flyer is also available in Spanish and Portuguese on mass.gov.

Please keep in mind that flu season is unpredictable, and even during mild seasons, influenza can cause illness and even death for thousands of people in the United States. Influenza vaccination is critical for reducing the overall impact of respiratory illness in the population, protecting vulnerable populations from severe illness, and decreasing the overall burden on the healthcare system. **MDPH recommends influenza vaccine for all students six months of age and older.**

Generating Revenue from School Flu Clinics:

- ForHealth Consulting at UMass Chan Medical School works with health plans to provide reimbursement for the administration of state-supplied flu and other routinely recommended vaccines to children in schools. Schools and local health departments that participate in this program will be reimbursed for the costs of administering state-supplied vaccines to health plan members. In addition, health plans have agreed to provide reimbursement for the cost of privately purchased vaccines for individuals aged 19 years and older.

For more information about this opportunity to generate revenue for your school, please visit the [ForHealth Consulting website](#), email vaccine@umassmed.edu, or call 800-890-2986 for additional information.

- School districts can also become MassHealth providers for the purpose of administering flu vaccine to children. MassHealth has waived the application fee for schools and local health departments and is encouraging schools to apply. For more information about the MassHealth Flu Vaccine Program, please visit mass.gov.

Resources:

The following resources can help you prevent flu in schools and assist with communication with parents:

- [The Flu Guide for Parents](#)
(distribution of this flyer meets the influenza education requirement)
- [Flu Information for School Administrators, School Nurses and Teachers](#)

For the most up-to-date information concerning influenza and additional resources, please check the [MDPH Influenza website](#) or call 617-983-6800.

We look forward to working with you to keep students and staff healthy and in class in the coming school year!