



Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District

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November 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you that the Department of Public Health has added a new influenza vaccine requirement for all children six months of age and older attending childcare/preschool, students in all grades of school from Kindergarten through Grade 12, and students of post-secondary institutions. This requirement was put in place to reduce influenza-related morbidity and reduce the overall impact of respiratory illness in a population still facing the COVID-19 pandemic. Students will be expected to have received an influenza vaccine for the current influenza season by December 31, 2020 unless they have a medical or religious exemption.

The Immunization Division acknowledges the intense pressure families and providers are facing in the setting of COVID-19 and continues to advise that vaccinating against vaccine-preventable diseases is essential to reduce the overall burden of disease in our communities. We typically roll out a new requirement with at least a year of advanced notice and acknowledge that this departure from the norm is a feature of these unprecedented times.

The updated table of school requirements for the upcoming school year is posted online at: <https://www.mass.gov/.../immunization.../download>.

Frequently asked questions and documents about the new flu requirement are available at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations>.

As a reminder, this year also includes a new meningococcal vaccine (MenACWY) requirement for entry into Grades 7 and 11. The Grade 11 requirement is for a booster dose of vaccine to be administered on or after the 16th birthday. Teens who turn 16 during the school year will not be expected to be vaccinated until after their 16th birthday. Please forward a copy of your child's immunizations to their respective school nurses as soon as they are completed.

Thank you,
SEBRSD Health Services