



Dear Parent/ Guardian.

Flu Season is almost here. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health wants to keep all children and the adults who care for them safe and healthy. The best way to protect against influenza is to receive a vaccination *every year*. Yearly flu vaccination is necessary because immunity against the flu wears off over time. In addition, the flu virus strains often change, so the vaccine must change year-to-year in order to match the flu viruses expected to be circulating in the community.

Influenza (“the flu”) is an infectious disease caused by a virus. Flu can cause serious illness that may result in hospitalization or death. Children consistently have the highest infection rates of influenza in the community during seasonal influenza outbreaks, and play a pivotal role in the transmission of the influenza virus to household members and other close contacts. Influenza vaccination is particularly important during the Covid-19 pandemic. The possibility of becoming ill with both Covid-19 and Influenza this winter makes it critical to receive timely flu vaccination this season.

Which students need to receive the influenza vaccine?

Massachusetts Law states all students in kindergarten through grade 12 will be required to receive influenza vaccine for the current season by December 31, 2020 in order to attend school (unless they have a medical or religious exemption).

If my school is providing instruction remotely, will my student still need to meet the immunization requirements?

The school immunization requirements, including the requirement for seasonal influenza vaccine, apply to all Massachusetts students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12, regardless of whether the district is providing instruction in-person, or using a hybrid or remote learning model.

Please send documentation of your child’s influenza vaccination to your school nurse as soon as possible, listed below is the school nurses’ contact information. A paper, fax or email copy are all acceptable. Please contact me with any questions. Thank you!

Jill Driscoll, Nurse Leader Norwood Public Schools
 781-440-5843
jdriscoll@norwood.k12.ma.us

Nurse’s Name	School	Phone	Fax	email
Cathleen Clark, RN	Balch	781-440-5933	781-769-5281	cclark@norwood.k12.ma.us
Maureen Gearty, RN	Callahan	781-440-5943	781-551-3596	mgearty@norwood.k12.ma.us
Terri Abely, RN	Cleveland	781-440-5953	888-305-0187	tabely@norwood.k12.ma.us
Carol McDonough, RN	Oldham	781-440-5963	781-769-0107	cmcdonough@norwood.k12.ma.us
Donna Twohig, RN	Prescott	781-440-5973	781-769-3219	dtwohig@norwood.k12.ma.us
Kelley burke, RN	LMPA	781-440-5804	781-440-5800	kburke@norwood.k12.ma.us
Carol Siekman, RN	Willett	781-440-5982	888-952-0977	csiekman@norwood.k12.ma.us
Tova Sperber, RN	CMS	781-440-5926	781-769-4458	tsperber@norwood.k12.ma.us
Jennifer Hartery, RN	NHS	781-352-3519	781-769-0980	jhartery@norwood.k12.ma.us