



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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Dear Employees of Child-care Centers in Texas:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Immunization Unit is sending you this letter to encourage you to get vaccinated against influenza this year. As a child-care center employee, you have a unique opportunity to protect the children at your place of employment and prevent the spread of influenza (flu) in your community. Check with your employer as they may already have an influenza vaccine requirement in effect.

Influenza is a very serious disease and many who contract the disease can develop complications. Every year in the United States, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications and about 36,000 people die from the flu. In the early stages of the flu, many people may not feel sick. However, without realizing it, they can spread the virus to others around them. People can infect others for up to a day before they have symptoms and up to five to seven days after becoming sick. Research has shown that children younger than five years of age are at high risk of serious flu-related complications.

The best way to protect yourself, the children at your place of work, your family, and your co-workers is to get immunized against the flu each year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone six months of age and older in the United States receive an influenza vaccine each year. Because the flu virus changes each year, the annual flu vaccine changes as well. To be protected, you will need to be vaccinated with the current year's seasonal flu vaccine every year.

Should you have any questions about influenza vaccination, contact your health-care provider or pharmacy, visit www.TexasFlu.org, or contact the DSHS Immunization Unit customer service number at (800) 252-9152.

Thank you for doing your part in preventing influenza disease at work, home, and in the community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Horton".

Margaret Horton
School Compliance Coordinator
Immunization Unit