

Berlin-Boylston Health Services

October 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians;

The flu vaccine is now required for all Massachusetts Public School students, ages 6 months and older who are attending Massachusetts daycare, pre-school, kindergarten, K-12, and colleges and universities. This includes students that are enrolled in the district Remote Learning Program. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), is targeting the seasonal flu and other respiratory illnesses, during the COVID-19 pandemic. All students in Grades Pre-K to Grade 12, enrolled in the Berlin/Boylston Public Schools, are required to receive the flu vaccine by December 31, 2020.

Students must provide flu shot documentation to the nurse at their individual school, unless they have a medical or religious exemption on file. Medical exemptions are written by the students primary care physician, along with signed parental consent. Religious exemptions may excuse students from one or more vaccines in the state of Massachusetts. A letter must be written by a parent/guardian, expressing that receiving such vaccines, conflicts with his/her religious beliefs. Both religious and medical vaccine exemptions must be submitted yearly. In addition, Grade Pre-K to Grade 12 students who are homeschooled are exempt from the flu vaccine.

The MDPH outlines this required immunization, but the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District is responsible for ensuring compliance. The flu vaccine will protect the student that is vaccinated and those around them from a potentially serious disease (influenza). Dr. Larry Madoff, Medical Director, Department of Public Health's Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, emphasized, "It is more important now, more than ever, to get a Flu Vaccine because flu symptoms are very similar to symptoms of COVID-19, and preventing the flu will save lives and preserve healthcare resources."

We understand how difficult this time can be. Our top priority is to promote the health and wellness of our students and staff. Thank you for helping us protect all members of our community. If you have any questions, please reach out to the School Nurse at your student's school.

Sincerely,
The District School Nurses

Tahanto Middle/High
Janet Sequeira RN
508-869-2333 X4
JSequeira@bbrsd.org

Boylston Elementary
Fayne Sullivan RN
508-869-2209
FSullivan@bbrsd.org

Berlin Elementary
Ana Amaral RN
978-838-2214
AAmaral@bbrsd.org