



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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September 1, 2009

**RE:** Flu Information for Parents of Children in Child-Care (House Bill 3184, 80 (R), Texas Legislature), and Newborn Screening Information.

Dear Child-Care Provider:

The 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session resulted in the passage of House Bill (HB) 3184, which requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to publish information about the benefits of annual vaccination against influenza (flu); and, together with the Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS), ensure the information is annually distributed to parents of children attending child-care in August or September.

During this year's regular legislative session (81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislative Session), Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 33, was amended to add new requirements regarding the storage and use of newborn bloodspots after the screening tests are completed.

### **Flu Information**

The DSHS Immunization Branch has developed a *Flu Fact Sheet for Child-Care Settings* and a brochure titled "Little Kids Get the Flu Too," which tells the story of Emily Lastinger. Both of these documents provide details on the symptoms, transmission, and prevention of the flu in children. Please assist us in sharing this information with parents during the month of September by either distributing the flu fact sheet and brochure, or visibly posting them for each parent to read. Together with DFPS, the Immunization Branch will continue distribution of the flu fact sheet and brochure annually. DFPS will distribute the fact sheet and brochure at monthly orientations and regularly scheduled inspections and DSHS will distribute the fact sheet and brochure to child care facilities during regularly scheduled audits.

The flu fact sheet is available online, in English and Spanish, at:

[http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/school\\_info.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/school_info.shtm). The Emily Lastinger brochure is also available online, at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/docs/11-12811.pdf>. You may order these forms directly (fact sheet Stock No. 11-12812, and Emily Lastinger brochure Stock No. 11-12811) from the Immunization Branch by filling out an online order form at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/literature/litlist.shtm>.

### **Newborn Screening Information**

Included in this mail-out is information for parents about how to request destruction of their child's bloodspots after newborn screening testing is completed. To find out more about the possible uses of these bloodspots, and how to request destruction; please go to the DSHS website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbsBloodspots.shtm> or call 1(888) 963-7111 ext. 7333.

For more information regarding immunization requirements for child-care attendance, please contact the Immunization Branch at (800) 252-9152.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jack C. Sims in black ink.

Jack C. Sims, Manager  
Immunization Branch