



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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September 20, 2010

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

Dear Child-Care Provider:

The 80th 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.

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 sheets and brochure, or visibly posting them for each parent to read. Together with DFPS, the Immunization Branch will continue distribution of the flu fact sheets 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. The Emily Lastinger brochure is also available online, at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/docs/11-12811.pdf>.

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

Sincerely,

Jack C. Sims, Manager
Immunization Branch