

# New Flu Vaccine Requirement for all Massachusetts students



November 11, 2020

Dear Saint Mary School Families:

Massachusetts public health officials announced this past summer that influenza immunization will be required for all children ages six months and older who are attending Massachusetts childcare, pre-school, kindergarten, K-12, college and universities. The new vaccine requirement is an important step to reduce flu-related illness and the overall impact of respiratory illness during the COVID-19 pandemic. ***Students are expected to receive a flu vaccine by December 31, 2020 for the 2020-2021 influenza season (unless they qualify for an exemption).*** Many of you have already done this; thank you!

Here are some interesting facts about the flu and the flu vaccine from the American Heart Association:

- Children would get a flu vaccine are much less likely to land in the hospital if they do catch the virus;
- Pregnant women are nearly 75% less likely to be hospitalized for the flu if they get a flu shot;
- For those over age 50 that skip the flu shot there is a significant increase in the chance of heart attack and stroke.

As winter approaches the demand for the flu vaccine will increase, so please make getting the flu shot a priority this coming month for yourself and your children. *Please submit your child's/children's documentation to me.* Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

*“Lisa” Elizabeth Powers, RN, MSN, Saint Mary School Nurse*