

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY 4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE ALEXANDRIA, VA 22350-1400

SEP 0 7 2016 SY16-17-20

MEMORANDUM FOR DODEA DIRECTORS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE DODEA CHIEF OF STAFF DODEA DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS DODEA COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENTS DODEA DISTRICT STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES ISSS DODEA SCHOOL PRINCIPALS DODEA SCHOOL NURSES

SUBJECT: Influenza Vaccine Requirement

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the addition of the influenza vaccine to the immunization requirements for students attending the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools starting the fall of 2016 and each subsequent year thereafter.

In accordance with DoDEA Regulation 2942.1 — School Health Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and AR 40-562/BUMEDINST 6230.15A/AFJI 48-110CG/COMDTINST "Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases" (October 2013), the recommendation for annual influenza vaccine is now a requirement for students attending DoDEA schools starting in the 2016 influenza season. Each subsequent year, the influenza annual/seasonal or pandemic vaccine is a requirement to safeguard the military communities and improve school attendance. Vaccine administration schedule will be arranged by the base medical treatment facilities and completed by no later than December 1 each year. School nurses are in a pivotal position to provide the essential education regarding the prevention of the flu illness and the benefits of the flu vaccine. It is the responsibility of each school nurse to provide information to school staff, families and the community regarding DoDEA required immunizations, offer guidance relating to vaccines, monitor the immunization compliance rate and collaborate with the base medical treatment facility.

The annual influenza vaccine is the best defense against influenza. The military community is a highly transient one, which increases the potential for exposure and the spread of infectious diseases such as influenza. Reducing the spread of preventable infections in schools and the military community, improves students' health, safety and attendance. Improved health and safety reduces absenteeism, a reduction in absenteeism improves student academic achievement.

Attached is the list of the updated DoDEA immunization requirements for school year 2016-17.

For questions related to the contents of this memorandum, please contact Ms. Aniko Maher, Nursing Specialist, via e-mail at <u>aniko.maher@hq.dodea.edu</u> or by telephone at DSN (312) 372-6001/ (571) 372-6001. In addition, Dr. Gael Coyle, Chief, Student Support Services, may be contacted via e-mail at <u>gael.coyle@hq.dodea.edu</u> or by telephone at DSN (312) 372-5862/ (571) 372-5862.

Dr. Linda L. Curtis Principal Deputy Director and Associate Director for Academics

Attachment: As stated

cc: President, FEA President, FEA-SR President, OFT President, ACEA