



# THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

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### Connecticut State Department of Public Health (DPH) School Flu Immunization Requirement for PreK Students: Question and Answer (Q+A)

The Connecticut immunization regulation requires at a minimum one dose of influenza vaccine for school entry, each year between August 1st and December 31, for all children aged 24 months - 4 years (59 months). For more information on influenza vaccines, visit the [State Department of Public Health's Web](#) site.

**Q:** Do all children aged 24 months - 4 years (59 months) who have not received a flu vaccine by December 31st need to be excluded from school?

**A:** Children do not have to be excluded from school if the following conditions are met:

- the school has received a statement signed by the child's HCP indicating that the child has an appointment to receive the required immunization (this is considered "immunization in progress"). Continued enrollment in school for more than thirty days after the named immunization appointment shall be contingent on the school receiving written documentation from the HCP stating either: that the named appointment was kept and the child received the scheduled immunizations, or that the child was unable to receive the scheduled immunizations for medical reasons and a new appointment date is named;
- the school has received a statement signed and dated by the child's HCP indicating that the child has a medical contraindication to immunization;
- the school has received a written statement that immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs and practices of the child or the parent of such child. Such statement shall be signed by the child's parent.

**Q:** How should a school enforce the flu vaccine regulation for those children who have not received the flu shot by December 31st?

**A:** Children who have not received the flu vaccine by December 31st must be excluded from school for the duration of influenza season (through March 31st) or until they receive at least one dose of the influenza vaccine.

**Q:** Where can a family go to get the flu vaccine if the pediatrician does not have any more flu vaccine?

**A:** If a HCP cannot provide the flu vaccine within the given time frame of August 1- December 31st, documentation stating that the child has an appointment to receive the flu vaccine from his or her HCP would be acceptable.

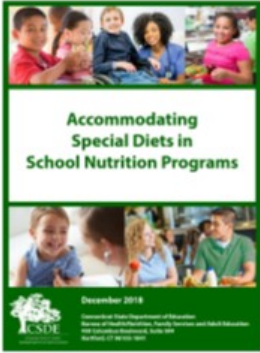
**Q:** How is the 'flu season' defined?

**A:** Influenza season generally occurs during November through the end of March.

**Q:** Is flu vaccine required after March?

**A:** No, students enrolling in school after March 31st are not required to get vaccinated but flu season may extend until May and therefore getting a flu vaccine even late in the season is still protective.

Additional resources regarding **Seasonal Influenza** may be accessed on the DPH Web site at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Search-Results?SearchKeyword=flu+vaccine>.



## Updates to: Accommodating Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE has revised the guide, [Accommodating Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs](#) (dated December 2018), and the PowerPoint presentation, [Requirements for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs](#) (dated December 2018), to include updates and new USDA guidance. **Please discard any resources downloaded prior to today, and replace with the revised versions.**

The resources below were also revised (dated November 2018) to include the CSDE's revised nondiscrimination statement and minor formatting changes. If you are using older versions, please replace.

- [Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- Medical Statement:
  - [Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs](#)
  - [Guidance and Instructions: Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Self-assessment of Local Practices for Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Summary of Requirements for Accommodating Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs](#)

All resources are available on the CSDE's [Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.



## Surgeon General's Advisory on E-cigarette Use Among Youth CDC Office of Smoking and Health

The U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams issued an [Advisory on E-cigarette Use Among Youth](#) at a press conference in Washington, D.C. The advisory, prompted by recent skyrocketing rates of e-cigarette use by our nation's youth, will alert parents, teachers and health professionals about new types of e-cigarettes and the negative health consequences of youth use of these products. If you cannot watch this event live, it will be archived on the HHS YouTube channel.

E-cigarette use has recently surged among youth, fueled by new e-cigarette types that look like a USB flash drive and other shapes. One of the most commonly sold USB flash drive shaped e-cigarettes is JUUL, and other companies are now starting to sell e-cigarettes that look like USB flash drives. Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which can harm the developing adolescent brain.

The Surgeon General urges immediate action to protect our nation's young people from the addiction to nicotine. The advisory encourages many different stakeholders to take action to protect our nation's youth from this health risk, including parents, teachers, health professionals, and states, communities, tribes, and territories.

CDC's Office on Smoking and Health has collaborated with the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General to offer the latest resources on the health risks of e-cigarette use among youth, including information on new e-cigarette types shaped like USB flash drives, such as JUUL.

### "Know the Risks" Website

The Surgeon General's [e-cigarette website](#) includes the advisory and updated communication materials, such as the audio PSA and print ad. Key updates highlight the latest data about youth e-cigarette use, and illustrations that reflect the various shapes of e-cigarettes.

## Professional Development Opportunities

### 2019 Spring School Nurse Supervisor Conference

**Save the Date!**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019  
**Location:** Red Lion Hotel, Cromwell, Connecticut  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
**Registration:** Information will be provided in the February 2018 School Nurse Bulletin

**Note:** Please e-mail [Stephanie.knutson@ct.gov](mailto:Stephanie.knutson@ct.gov) for consideration of topics you would like to have addressed at the 2019 Spring Conference. Deadline for suggestions is March 1, 2019.



### Tell Me What You See (TMWYS)

Tell Me What You See (TMWYS) is a **Supplemental Health Education Program** designed to provide students in grades 9-12 with essential knowledge on STD's, hepatitis and HIV that is in alignment with the *National Health Education Standards*.

This free and exciting online educational resource uses posters, poetry and interactive classroom activities to create a visual dialogue that inspires students to explore and share their own thoughts and feelings about STD's, hepatitis and HIV.

TMWYS enables students to visualize their way to a healthier future. The artwork and group activities give young people a window into dealing with life situations through a participatory and retained experience that can provide a pathway into developing both personal responsibility and safe behaviors that can last a lifetime.

Try it out for free at . . .

Web site located at <https://www.tellmewhatyousee.org/>

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