

January 8, 2018

Dear parents,

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year!

As you may know, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, along with many other teaching hospitals in Toronto require staff and volunteers at the hospital and in the Bloorview School Authority be vaccinated against influenza or wear a mask during influenza season. Due to increasing flu activity in the community, flu season officially began on January 2, 2018

The flu is different from the common cold and can lead to serious illness. Children, especially those with underlying medical conditions, are at increased risk of developing flu-related complications, such as pneumonia.

During flu season, staff and volunteers at the school and hospital will either be vaccinated against the flu or wear masks in most areas, including classrooms and corridors. There are many reasons why teachers and care providers choose to either be vaccinated or wear a mask. Please respect the decision and privacy of each person who teaches and cares for your child.

How can you help reduce the spread of the flu?

- Wash or sanitize your hands often while at the school and hospital, including when entering the building.
- If you feel sick while at the school and hospital, please put on a mask and avoid visiting again until you are well.

Information about getting the flu shot

- For information about getting the flu shot, please speak to your family physician. You can get the flu shot at your family physician's office and participating pharmacies.

Thank you for working with us to keep everyone as safe as possible this flu season. If you have any questions about this policy, do not hesitate to contact me at 416-424-3860.

Also, a reminder that students go outside for a recess time and daily physical activity. We monitor the weather and students go outside up to -15C (with windchill). Please ensure your child comes to school dressed to participate in outdoor activities. An extra pair of gloves, hat, socks and pants should be left at the school.

Sincerely,

L. Ward
Principal