

City of New York
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MENTAL HYGIENE
125 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013



City of New York
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the New York City school system. All of us wish your child a happy, healthy and productive educational experience.

Good health is essential for your child's learning. The New York City Health Code requires that every child who enters school for the first time must have a record of a medical examination. On the other side of this letter is the school health examination form (211S). This form is the basis of your child's school medical record. Please ask your child's health care provider to fill out the form. Return the completed form to the school within 2 weeks.

Asthma Alert: You and your child's doctor can help us by answering the questions about asthma on the 211S form on the other side of this letter. Your answers will be kept completely confidential, just like all the other medical information on your child's health record. This information will enable us to help children with asthma achieve their full educational potential and enjoy an active childhood.

Smoking Alert: Four out of five adults who smoke say they tried their first cigarette before they turned 18. Our children are exposed to cigarette advertisements that encourage them to smoke. Although it is illegal, many children are able to buy cigarettes on their own. Each day, dozens of our children are becoming addicted to cigarettes and, unless they stop, too many of them will become sick and die from a smoking-related disease, such as lung cancer or heart attack. Together, parents, teachers, and health workers must counter these messages and make sure that children do not have access to cigarettes at home or in our schools.

If you smoke, there are many reasons to stop. You will help set a great example for your children. You will keep them safe from the dangers of secondhand smoke in your home. Also, by not buying cigarettes, you can put the money you save to better use. Smoking one pack a day costs more than \$2,000 a year.

The illnesses and deaths caused by smoking are all preventable; it is up to us to ensure that our children stay healthy by encouraging them to stop smoking or, better yet, making sure they never start.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael R. Bloomberg in black ink.

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Handwritten signature of Joel I. Klein in black ink.

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor
Department of Education

Handwritten signature of Thomas R. Frieden in black ink.

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
Department of Health & Mental Hygiene