



QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH State of Maryland

206 N. Commerce Street, Centreville, Maryland 21617-1049
Tel: 410-758-0720 ● 410-778-0993 ● Fax: 410-758-2838

School-Age Influenza Campaign: K - 12

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Students in Kindergarten through 12th grade are eligible to receive a Flu Vaccine this fall. This program will offer FluMist® **FREE OF CHARGE**. Registered nurses from the Queen Anne's County Department of Health will be on site at your child's school to administer the vaccine.

FluMist is the form chosen to be given if your child receives vaccine at school. If your child does not qualify for FluMist because of health related issues, he/she may receive a free flu shot which is offered at the Queen Anne's County Department of Health's many clinics. No shots will be administered in the schools.

Children may find a nasal vaccine easier to tolerate since they are not getting a shot and it doesn't hurt. FluMist is a well-tested, safe vaccine. It is given by a nasal spray and uses a weakened form of the flu virus to help protect against the flu.

The flu shot is the method of choice for people with chronic illnesses, such as asthma, diabetes or for those who do not like the nasal delivery. The flu shot is given in the arm and is a dead form of the virus that helps to provide protection from illness.

Vaccinating the school-aged population is an effective way to reduce the incidence of flu among all age groups in the community, according to recent studies. Children have a higher rate of infection during flu season than adults and they are often the primary source of infection for other family members. Influenza can be especially dangerous for younger siblings and grandparents whose immune systems are not as strong at fighting infections. By vaccinating children, we will help protect the entire family. If our children are healthier, they miss less school time, and their parents miss less time from work.

The following information will be distributed electronically by the school:

- Influenza Vaccine Consent Form
- Notice of Privacy Practice
- Frequently Asked Questions

Please complete electronically if you have access to a computer. The above information will also be sent home with students so that parents can complete if they do not have access to a computer.



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It is important to know that no child will be vaccinated unless the Influenza Vaccine Form has been reviewed, completed and signed by the parent or guardian.

Also, children under 9 years of age who have never received FluMist or a flu shot before will need a second vaccination in approximately 4 weeks to be completely protected against the flu. The health department will return to the school to administer second doses for the children who need it. If your child needs a 2nd flu vaccine and does not receive it at the school, he may come to any of the Department of Health's many scheduled clinics.

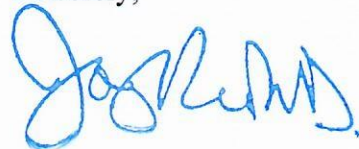
Please return the completed, printed and signed Influenza Vaccine Consent Form to the school by September 13, 2019 if you want your child to receive the FluMist nasal vaccine. Do not return the form if you do not want your child vaccinated.

The dates for the in-school flu clinics will be announced at a later date.

****If your child received an MMR or varicella (chickenpox) shot in the 28 days before the FluMist in-school clinic, they will be given the FluMist when we return to school for the 2nd doses. *****

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Queen Anne's County Department of Health communicable disease staff at 410-758-0720.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Ciotola, Jr.", with a small "M.D." at the end.

Joseph A. Ciotola, Jr., M.D.
Health Officer

JC/td