

Catoosa County Health Department

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Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect

Catoosa County Board of Health

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The Catoosa County Health Department is excited to let you know we will again be offering **Influenza Vaccine** to the students of Catoosa County Schools. This vaccine is being offered through a grant from the Georgia State Immunization Program. Last year we administered 2,000 doses of influenza vaccine to our students.

We will be billing the cost of administering the vaccine to Medicaid, Peachcare, Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO of any state, Cigna and Aetna. For those students who do not have insurance or who have another insurance carrier the administration cost will be waived.

The vaccine will be administered during the school day by a Public Health Nurse. If you want your student to receive the Influenza Vaccine please complete the consent form on the back of this letter and return this form promptly to school. **If you are not interested in your student receiving the Influenza Vaccine simply DO NOT return the form.** For your student to receive the vaccine, please answer ALL questions. If you have any questions, please contact the Health Department at 706-406-2000.

We will be administering the Live Influenza (Flu Mist) vaccine*. This vaccine is recommended for healthy people age 2 through 49 years, who are not pregnant and do not have certain health conditions. Please review the Vaccine Information Statement that is attached to see if your student qualifies for the Flu Mist. Please keep the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) attached. If you would prefer being present while the vaccine is administered please check with your school nurse to find out the date and time we will be at your school.

Please complete the consent form on the back of this letter and return the consent form to school with your student. You will know when your student received their Flu Mist because we will stamp your student's hand with a Sunshine stamp.

***Your student may not have the nasal mist if he or she has asthma/recurrent wheezing, if he/she is on long term aspirin therapy or has a lowered immune system. Ask your school nurse for an injectable consent form (blue form). We do have a limited number of inactivated/injectable influenza doses to administer for those students who are unable to take the Flu Mist.**

I have reviewed section 3 of the VIS statement attached to this letter. My student is unable to take the Live/Flu Mist for the following reason _____. [If your student is unable to receive the Flu Mist please request a consent form for the injectable Influenza vaccine (blue form) from your school nurse.]

It is recommended for students under age 8 to receive 2 doses of influenza in some circumstances. These doses are recommended to be separated by at least one month. **If** it is recommended for your student to receive a second dose we will notify you by sending you a letter and you will be asked to complete another consent form.

In an effort to minimize paperwork a copy of the Notice of Privacy Policy is not being included in your packet. A copy of this policy is available at the Catoosa County Health Department. If you would like to request a copy of this policy please call or come by the Health Department. We would be glad to forward you a copy by mail.