Coastal Health District
Lawton C. Davis, M.D., District Health Director

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

This year it's more important than ever to protect our students against the influenza virus and the best way to do that is to get them vaccinated. The Health Department will hold voluntary school flu clinics to help accomplish that. We will make the process as safe and easy as possible and all enrolled students will be eligible to receive the flu vaccine.

Please review the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) about the flu vaccine. If you would like for your student to be vaccinated at the school-based flu vaccination clinic then you should complete, sign, and return the Parental Consent Form to your child's school as soon as possible. **If this consent form is not filled out completely, signed, dated, and returned before the deadline, your student will not be vaccinated at the school-based clinic.** Additional copies of the consent form and VIS are available by going to www.gachd.org and clicking on the "Immunizations and Vaccinations" link under the Quick Links menu on the home page.

All children are eligible to participate regardless of insurance status. We are asking for insurance information and a copy of your insurance card because we may be able to bill your insurance for a small administration fee to help support school-based flu clinics this year and in the future. If your insurance does not agree to pay the fee or you don't have insurance you will not be billed by us or your insurance. Please fully answer the medical questions on the consent form. Whether or not your child can receive the vaccine will be determined by the nurse based on your answers to the questions in the Parental Consent Form. If all questions are not answered, then the student will not be vaccinated at the school-based clinic.

The flu is easily spread through coughs and sneezes and by touching something with the virus and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. The flu vaccine is safe and effective and can help protect your child from illness, hospitalization, or worse.

Thank you, in advance, for helping us keep our students safe and healthy. If you have any questions, please call the Bryan County Health Department at 653-4331 (Pembroke) or 756-2611 (Richmond Hill).

Sincerely,

Lawton C. Davis, MD
District Health Director, Coastal Health District