

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The best way to keep our students healthy during flu season is to immunize them against the influenza virus. The Bryan County Health Department will schedule voluntary flu vaccination clinics at county schools in the upcoming months. All enrolled students will be eligible to receive the flu vaccine in an injectable (shot) form and these clinics will be set up with minimal interruption to the school day. Please note that the nasal spray form of the vaccine will not be offered this year in accordance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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 event date, 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. Those in close proximity to one another on a regular basis, such as school students, are more vulnerable to getting and spreading the flu. The flu vaccine is safe and effective and can help protect your child from illness, hospitalization, or worse. Less illness from flu means fewer days of missed schools and missed work.

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, M.D.
District Health Director, Coastal Health District

