

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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Dear Parent:

The flu vaccine will be offered, free of charge, to all students Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> during school hours. Attached to this letter, please find the consent form and Vaccine Information Sheets. If you would like your student to be vaccinated, complete all consent form sections, sign, date and return to school by Friday, October 30, 2020. **All sections must be complete including question #1 (flu mist or shot) for your student to receive the vaccine.** Please contact the Florida Department of Health in Putnam County with any questions at 386-326-3200.

**The flu vaccine is safe.** The national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that all individuals six months of age and older receive the flu vaccine each year. Since infants under six months of age are too young to get vaccinated against influenza, it is important that family members (including pregnant or breastfeeding mothers) and other caregivers for these children be vaccinated to help protect them from the disease.

It is especially important that parents **keep sick children at home** to prevent spreading the flu virus to others. Additional flu prevention steps include staying away from people who are sick, covering sneezes or coughs with a tissue or your elbow, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and frequent handwashing.

**If your child becomes sick with flu-like illness, contact your health care provider as soon after symptoms begin as possible. Symptoms of the flu often include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headaches, or fatigue.** Antiviral medication for flu has been shown to reduce severity and length of disease, decrease the risk of complications from influenza, and reduce the risk of death among hospitalized patients, particularly in those that start treatment early in their illness. Health care providers can prescribe antiviral treatment if appropriate. Treatment is most effective when started within 48 hours, so contacting your health care provider as soon as your child becomes ill is important, especially if your child has underlying health conditions. Students with influenza or influenza like illness **are excluded** from school until they are fever free for 24 hours without assistance of Tylenol or Motrin.

For more information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/general.htm>

Sincerely,

*Andrea C. Leary, MSN, APRN, FNP-C*  
Florida Department of Health