

To Parents,

September 23, 2010

This fall Dickey County Health District will be holding **Seasonal Influenza** (Flu) Vaccination Clinics in all county schools for students in grades K-12. Dickey County is committed to making vaccinations more **convenient** for parents and increasing the number of children vaccinated against influenza in our community. Flu vaccination is the single best way to help **prevent** your child from **getting** and **spreading** the flu. If you would like your child to receive seasonal influenza vaccination in school this fall to reduce the number of sick days affecting your family, please follow the steps below:

**STEP 1. Consent Form**

Additional Consent Forms can be downloaded at [www.dickeynd.com/health\\_district.php](http://www.dickeynd.com/health_district.php)

- Fill out **ALL HIGHLIGHTED** areas on the front and back of the Influenza Vaccine Consent Form.
- The Consent Form must be completed in ink and signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- The Consent Form and payment if needed must be returned to our office by September 30, 2010.
- Your child **will not** be vaccinated if we do not receive a completed and signed Flu Vaccine Consent Form.

**STEP 2. Payment – (if applicable)** The vaccine for school age children is provided free by the North Dakota Dept. of Health, but there is a fee for the administration of vaccine.

- Use the chart below to determine if payment applies to you.
- Payment by cash or check is accepted. Checks should be made payable to **DCHD**. Payment may be sent with consent forms.

No Insurance	Your insurance <u>does not cover</u> Flu Vaccine*	Medicaid	Your insurance policy <u>covers</u> Flu Vaccine*
\$13.90 donation per child if able to pay.	\$13.90 donation per child if able to pay.	Write Medicaid number on vaccine consent form. Do not send money.	No out of pocket expense as long as primary policy insurance information is on the vaccine consent form. Do not send money.

*\*Please call the number on the back of your insurance card to determine if your insurance policy covers the cost of seasonal flu vaccine. Most all Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans cover flu vaccine.*

If you have any questions about your child being vaccinated or the vaccination clinics at your school, please call Dickey County Health District at 349-4348. Visit the CDC's influenza web site at [www.ndflu.com](http://www.ndflu.com) for more information. Frequently asked questions are on the back of this letter.

Sincerely,

Dickey County Health District

## Questions and Answers

Are parents required to be present at the clinics?

Parents are not required to be present

How much does the vaccine cost?

This year flu vaccine is being provided by the ND State Health Department from a grant they received for use in school settings. There is an administration fee of \$13.90 per child. Please see table in letter to determine if payment is needed.

How will I know when the Flu Clinics will be held at my school?

Parents will be informed of the date and time prior to the influenza clinics by communication sent home from the school. If your child is unable to receive a flu vaccination on the day of the clinic, call the public health office to make other arrangements.

Clinic dates and times will also be posted on the Dickey County Health District website, [www.dickeynd.com/health\\_district.php](http://www.dickeynd.com/health_district.php). Please note, dates and time will not be posted to our website until close to actual clinic. Vaccine information and Consent forms can also be found at [www.dickeynd.com/health\\_district.php](http://www.dickeynd.com/health_district.php)

Who can participate in the influenza clinics at my child's school?

All students in grades K-12 attending the school where the clinic is scheduled are eligible to participate.

Should my child get the Flu shot or Flumist?

The major difference between Flumist and the flu shot is that Flumist is made from a live virus. The virus is weakened and will not actually give your child the flu. Flumist is given in each nostril, similar to nasal spray. Flumist is a good alternative to your child getting a shot, but is not recommended for children with certain chronic health conditions (ex. asthma or diabetes). Millions of doses of Flumist have been safely given since 2003. The flu shot and Flumist are both very effective in preventing influenza. All children will be receiving the Flumist unless they have contraindications.

What if I change my mind and don't want my child to be vaccinated?

If, at any time, you change your mind about having your child vaccinated, you can withdraw your consent by calling the Dickey County Health District office at 349-4348.

What are contraindications?

A contraindication to flu vaccine means a person has a health condition which makes it inadvisable to give the vaccine. Please see the enclosed information sheets on live intranasal influenza (Flumist) and inactivated influenza (the shot) for a complete list of contraindications.