

SOUTHEAST HEALTH DISTRICT

Serving: Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Bulloch, Candler, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Evans, Jeff Davis, Pierce, Tattnall, Toombs, Ware & Wayne counties

School Flu Campaign Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Coffee County Health Department is working with local schools to have seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine available to your child for the upcoming flu season. The influenza vaccine will help protect against influenza strains that are expected to circulate this year.

Depending on whether they've received influenza vaccines in the past, children through age 8 may need a second dose approximately one month after the first dose. *If your child needs a second dose, we will send home another consent form for you to complete and sign before the second dose is given.*

The Health Department will be offering influenza vaccination with one of two kinds of vaccine:

- ❖ **Flumist®:** (Intranasal Live Influenza Virus Vaccine) - is a flu vaccine that is sprayed into the nose.
- ❖ **Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV):** is a flu vaccine that is given as a shot. The inactivated flu shot will either be a Trivalent (IIV₃) or Quadrivalent (IIV₄) vaccine.

The choice of the vaccine provided will depend on the answers to your child's health questions on the consent form attached.

If you have insurance that covers vaccines, your insurance provider may be charged.

To accept the vaccination for your child, please follow the steps below:

- 1) **Read the "Vaccine Information Statements" included with this letter about the disease and the vaccine.**
- 2) **Sign and date the consent form to accept vaccination for your child.**
- 3) **Return the consent form to the school by 9-26-14-School Nurse**
- 4) **If you accept vaccination, the vaccine will be given to your child during the scheduled vaccination clinic.**
- 5) **If the consent form is not signed, dated, and returned, your child will not be vaccinated.**
- 6) **School staff will let you know when the vaccination clinic will take place**

We would like to thank you in advance for assisting us in keeping all of our students safe and healthy. Please understand that participation and receipt of the influenza vaccine through this program is completely voluntary.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call:

Coffee County Health Department at 1-855-473-4374 _____

Your child's health care provider can also answer your questions regarding the influenza virus and may be able to give your child the seasonal influenza vaccine. For additional information please visit the CDC's influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/parents>.