



Coffee County Board of Health

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District Health Director

Flu Vaccine at School

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The best way to keep our students healthy during flu season is to immunize them against the influenza virus. The Coffee County Health Department will schedule voluntary flu vaccination clinics at local schools in the upcoming months. All enrolled students will be eligible to receive the flu vaccine. These clinics will be set up with minimal interruption to the school day. The nasal spray form of the vaccine may be offered this year in addition to the injectable vaccine, per recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The vaccine types available will be based on local supply.

Here are the possible flu vaccine options:

- ❖ **Inactivated Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIV):** vaccine given as a *shot*.
- ❖ **Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV):** vaccine given as a mist *in the nose*.

For more information on flu vaccines, please see the attached "What You Need to Know" Vaccine Information Statements.

Children up to the age of nine years who have not received the flu vaccine in the past 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 giving the vaccine.*

All children are eligible to participate regardless of insurance status. If your child has health insurance that covers vaccines, we will need your insurance information and a copy of your insurance card. If your insurance does not agree to pay the fee or you do not have insurance, we will not charge you or your insurance.

If you would like to have your child vaccinated during the school-based flu clinic please:

- 1) Read the "What You Need to Know" Vaccine Information Statements included with this letter.**
- 2) You must fully complete, sign, and date the attached consent form. The nurse will determine whether your child can receive the vaccine based on your answers to the questions in the Parental Consent Form.**
- 3) Return the consent form to the school as soon as possible, preferably by 9/15/2018.**

If the consent form is not completed, signed, dated, and returned before the clinic date, your child will not be vaccinated. School flu clinics will begin in late September or October. School staff will let you know when the flu vaccine clinic will take place at your child's school.

***If you wish to withdraw consent at any time before the school clinic, please contact the school/school nurse. ***

Thank you for helping us to keep our students safe and healthy.

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

Coffee County Health Department at 855-473-4374

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

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

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