



Preserving and protecting public health in our community

September 21, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Webster County Health Unit is working with your child's school to give the seasonal influenza vaccine to children at school. This vaccine will protect against all four strains that are expected to circulate this year. The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that live attenuated influenza vaccine such as "FluMist" vaccine not be used during the 2017-2018 flu season. This recommendation follows data showing poor or relatively lower effectiveness of FluMist from 2013-2016. ACIP continues to recommend annual flu vaccination with inactivated influenza vaccine. This means that vaccinations will only be available in the form of injections. NO NASAL MIST WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS SEASON.

We will hold a vaccination clinic at your child's school on **Thursday, October 5, 2017**. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.

If you'd like for your child to receive the flu vaccine at school, please fill out both sides and sign the accompanying form. Return the completed form to your school nurse by Tuesday, September 26, 2017. If you do not return a completed form to the school nurse, your child may not receive a vaccination that day.

To complete the Payment Information section on the form, here's what you need to do:

- If your child is Medicaid eligible, please complete the form, check the "Medicaid State ID" box and provide their Medicaid number for billing purposes.
- If your child has an eligible insurance listed on the form that will pay for the flu shot, please complete the form, check the "Insurance Pay" box and provide all insurance information. **(First Health Cox is NOT contracted with our vaccine supplier; therefore the immunization is NOT covered.)**
- If your child is not eligible for Medicaid, does not have private insurance or has private insurance that does not cover immunizations, please indicate that on the the form by checking the "No Insurance" box.

If you have any questions about the vaccine please call the Webster County Health Unit; or if you have questions related to the vaccination clinics, please refer those to your child's school nurse. Please visit the CDC's web site at <http://www.cdc.gov> for more information especially for parents.

Sincerely,
Terre Banks, RN
Administrator