

Dear Parents,

Doctors recommend that all children 6 months through 18 years of age be vaccinated against influenza (the flu) every year.

The New Mexico Department of Health through the School Kids Influenza Immunization Project (SKIIP) is working with your child's school to **give children flu vaccine right at school**, so you won't need to miss work or take time out of your busy day. Flu vaccine provided at the school will be at no cost to you.

- FluMist® is sprayed into the nose and does not involve a needle.
- Children like the spray because there is no needle and it's fast, easy and painless.
- A few children cannot receive FluMist® because of medical reasons (like asthma or diabetes—see below for complete list); they will need a flu shot.
- Some schools will be offering both types of vaccines—FluMist® and injectable; please check with your school. If your child needs the flu shot and your school isn't giving it, you can take your child to your healthcare provider.
- If your child is unable to receive flu vaccination at your healthcare provider, you may take him/her to your local Public Health Office to receive flu vaccine.

If you want your child to receive influenza vaccine, please **fill out** and **sign** the accompanying form and **return it to your school nurse as soon as possible**. **You are required to complete all information at the top of the form, including the insurance information, medical screening questions, and your signature.** While the shot is free, it is necessary to provide insurance information, but you will not be charged.

After the permission form is filled out, signed and returned to the school, the school nurse will determine if your child can get FluMist® based on the health questions on the form. *Children with asthma, or who have long-term health problems such as heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease, lung disease, diabetes, anemia, cerebral palsy, seizures or a weakened immune system should receive injectable flu vaccine.*

Some children younger than 9 years of age may need two doses of influenza vaccine during the 2015-2016 flu season. **Some children will only need one.** **The school nurse will help determine how many doses your child needs.** Children age 9 years and older need only one dose. A second school clinic may be held later for children under 9 years of age who need a second dose.



Together let's keep our children and schools healthy and free from flu!

*If you have questions about the flu or flu vaccine,
please call the New Mexico Vaccine and Flu Hotline at 1-866-681-5872*