

## Parent and Guardian: Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Why are flu clinics at school a good idea?**

**A:** Schools are a great setting to vaccinate kids! It is efficient and convenient for families. We are able to vaccinate a large number of children in a short amount of time.

**Q: What is the cost?**

**A:** The NH Immunization Program provides all required vaccines at NO COST to children through age 18 years. There is no cost to participate in this flu clinic.

**Q: When will the clinic be held?**

**A:** Tuesday, October 17th

**Q: What is the flu?**

**A:** Influenza, commonly called “the flu” is a viral infection that affects the nose, throat, and lungs. The flu is different from the common cold as it is more likely to cause severe illness and life-threatening complications.

**Q: Who will give the vaccine to my child?**

**A:** Trained clinical staff will provide the vaccine to your child.

**Q: What kind of flu vaccine is offered at the clinic?**

**A:** The vaccine offered this year will be a shot. It is quadrivalent and contains 4 strains of influenza.

**Q: Is the flu vaccine safe?**

**A:** Yes the vaccine is safe. They may be redness and swelling at the site. The risk of a vaccine causing a serious reaction is extremely rare, but like any other medicine, it could possibly cause problems such as allergic reactions. All children will be screened by trained clinical staff for potential harm based on the answers you gave when you completed the consent form. All children will wait at the clinic area for 15 minutes and sent back to class. Please see the Vaccine Influenza Statement (VIS) for more information.

**Q: What if my child has a reaction to the vaccine?**

**A:** The medical staff will observe the children for 15 minutes after they get their vaccine for any reaction. Serious reactions are rare. A mild reaction can occur and is usually mild, such as soreness around the injection site, mild fever, or muscle aches. Please review the material sent home for more information about reactions.

**Q: Can the flu vaccine give you the flu?**

**A:** No, the flu vaccine cannot give you the flu. There are many reasons you might feel flu-like symptoms. For example, you might have been exposed to a non-flu virus before or after you got vaccinated or you might have been exposed to the flu after you got vaccinated but before the vaccine took effect. It takes about two weeks after you receive the vaccine for your body to build protection against the flu.

**Q: Is the flu vaccine preservative-free?**

**A:** Yes! There are no preservatives, such as thimerosal, in the current approved flu vaccines.

**Q: Will the children miss a lot of classroom time?**

**A:** No, only small groups of children will be brought to the clinic area at a time.

**Q: Can the entire family get their vaccine at the same time?**

**A:** Only children enrolled at the school can get a vaccine at our clinic.

**Q: What if this is the first time my child has had the flu vaccine?**

**A:** If your child is eight years old or younger and this is your child's first flu vaccine ever, you may need to follow up with your child's medical provider for a booster dose.

**Q: Can I be with my child when he/she receives the vaccine?**

**A:** We prefer that children receive the vaccine with their classmates but will make accommodations if needed.

**Q: What if my child refuses to get the vaccine on the day of the clinic?**

**A:** We will encourage your child to get the vaccine along with the other classmates. Staff will not force your child. If your child does not receive the vaccine at the school, a note will be sent home explaining why.

**Q: Can I volunteer to help with the clinic?**

**A:** Contact the school nurse to see if you can help.

**Q: What if my child feels sick on the day of the clinic?**

**A:** Mild illness, such as the common cold, does not mean your child cannot get the flu vaccine. Your child will be evaluated by the school nurse on the day of the clinic.

**Q: What if my child is absent on the day of the clinic?**

**A:** If your child is absent on the day of the clinic and misses the flu vaccine, arrange to take your child to your health care provider or other location where flu vaccine is given.

**Q: Can I change my mind after I send in a signed consent form?**

**A:** Yes. Contact the school.

**Q: How is my child's confidentiality protected?**

**A:** All clinic staff are bound by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to protect your child's privacy. They all sign an agreement assuring they will follow HIPAA rules.

**Q: Will my child's medical provider be notified that my child received the flu vaccine?**

**A:** If you provide the information, we will make every effort to notify your child's medical provider.

**Q: Where can I find out more information about the flu vaccine?**

**A:** Refer to the information sent home with your child or visit [www.cdc.gov/influenza/](http://www.cdc.gov/influenza/) or [www.influenza.gov](http://www.influenza.gov).