



Dear Parent/Guardian:

The flu vaccine is the best way to prevent the flu. It is especially important that children with certain health problems like asthma, diabetes or weak immune systems get vaccinated every year.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is working with your school district and the VaxCare Corporation to provide flu vaccine at your child's school this fall. In the past, there were two options for flu vaccine, the nasal spray or the shot. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that the nasal spray should not be used this flu season. The flu shot will be the only flu vaccine given in school clinics this year.

Flu shots are affordable at school clinics. If your child has:

- **Medicaid:** Medicaid will be billed for \$13.
- **No health insurance:** You will receive a bill from DHEC for \$13.
- **Private health insurance:** Your child's coverage will be checked. If insurance does not cover the vaccine, you will receive a bill for \$13. If insurance does cover the vaccine, you may be responsible for any copay or other charges based on your insurance plan, not to exceed \$30 per dose.

If you would like your child to get a flu shot at school:

1. Read the Vaccine Information Statement and the DHEC and VaxCare Privacy Notices (available: <http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/InfectiousDiseases/Flu/SchoolFluVaccineClinics/>). Your school's nurse also can provide you with paper copies.
2. Fill out the front and back of the Parent Consent Form.
3. Return the Parent Consent Form to the school within five (5) days of receiving this letter.

If your child is under the age of 9, he or she may be recommended to get a second flu shot for the best protection. You will be notified if your child will need a second flu shot.

Sincerely,

Teresa A. Foo, MD, MPH
Medical Consultant, Immunization Division

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Once you have returned the Parent Consent Form, please contact the DHEC Regional Immunization Office for your county before the scheduled vaccination clinic, if any of the following events occur:

- There are any significant changes in your child's health.
- You decide you no longer want your child to receive the flu shot at school.

DHEC Regional Immunization Office Contact Information:

- For parents of children in participating schools in Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg counties, please call **(843) 953-0080**.
- For parents of children in participating schools in Aiken, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Saluda, York counties, please call **(803) 320-2467**.
- For parents of children in participating schools in Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union counties, please call **(864) 596-2227 Ext. 246**.
- For parents of children in participating schools in Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg counties, please call **(843) 673-6570**.