Vaccinate your child against flu at school!

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Flu is a serious disease that can cause hospitalization and sometimes even death. Influenza vaccination is an excellent way to prevent the flu. That's why the New Mexico Department of Health, through the School Kids Influenza Immunization Project—SKIIP—will be working with your child’s school to offer flu shots to students. The flu shot will be provided at no cost to you at your child’s school.

**All children are eligible to get the flu shot through SKIIP. There is no need to make a doctor's appointment or take time off to get your child vaccinated against the flu!**

Pediatricians recommend all children 6 months through 18 years be vaccinated against the flu every year.

Based on recommendations from the CDC, **only** the flu shot will be available.

If you want your child to get a flu shot at school, please:

1. **Completely fill out** the consent form
2. **Sign** the consent form only if you **want your child** to get the **flu shot**
3. **Return** the form to the **school nurse** as soon as possible

All children, whether they have insurance or not, can participate in SKIIP. But, in order to participate, it is necessary to complete the insurance section of the form and complete all of the medical screening questions.

The school nurse will review the completed consent form and medical screening questions to determine if your child can receive the injectable flu shot at school. Some children cannot receive flu vaccine due to medical reasons like a severe allergy to eggs or a bad reaction to a flu vaccine in the past.

If your child is younger than 9 years old, two doses of influenza vaccine may be needed. Your school nurse will help determine how many doses your child needs. A second school clinic may be held 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 visit the New Mexico Department of Health Immunization Program website at [www.immunizem.org](http://www.immunizem.org), or contact your local public health office*