

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**ONLY injectable Flu shots will be given this year
(no FluMist)**

Please note that due to new federal recommendations, FluMist will not be available through SKIIP (School Kids Influenza Immunization Project) or through doctors' offices this year. In the past, FluMist was given, but this year only the Flu Shot will be provided.

The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) through SKIIP is working with your child's school to **give children flu vaccine right at school**, so you will not need to miss work or take time out of your busy day to ensure that your child is vaccinated against the flu. If you would like to accompany your child on the day of the SKIIP clinic, please talk to your school nurse for scheduling information. Flu vaccine provided to your child at school will be at no cost to you. Doctors recommend that all children 6 months through 18 years of age be vaccinated against the flu every year.

- Some children cannot receive flu vaccine because of medical reasons (like severe allergy to eggs or a bad reaction to a flu vaccine in the past).
- If you are not comfortable with your child receiving a shot without you present, **you can accompany your child on the day of the clinic**, or you can take your child to your healthcare provider for the shot. If your child is unable to receive flu vaccination through your healthcare provider, you may take him/her to your local NMDOH 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 the school nurse as soon as possible**. **You are required to complete all information on the form. Please do not forget your signature if you want your child vaccinated.** While the shot is provided at no cost to you, it is necessary for you to provide insurance information on the form—you will not be charged for the vaccine.

After the consent form is filled out, signed and returned to the school, the school nurse will determine if your child can receive flu vaccine at school based on the answers provided to the medical screening questions on the form.

Some children younger than 9 years of age may need two doses of influenza vaccine during the 2016-2017 flu season. **The school nurse will help determine how many doses your child will need.** 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 call the New Mexico Vaccine and Flu Hotline at 1-866-681-5872*