



Date

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is partnering with your school to provide flu shots to students. The flu shot is recommended by CDC and DHEC every year for everyone 6 months of age and older. It is the best way to protect your child against the flu.

I urge you to consider signing up your child to receive the flu shot in his/her school clinic. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Children in close settings like schools are at higher risk of getting sick with the flu and then spreading it to other students and teachers. The flu is also then spread at home to parents, siblings and other family members and friends.
- If your child has asthma, diabetes or other chronic health conditions, they are more likely than other children to become very sick if they get the flu. It is especially important for children with any of these conditions to get the flu shot every year.
- Your child can get the flu shot at school from a DHEC nurse and you do not need to miss work to take them to the doctor's office.
- The flu is a primary reason for students (and parents!) to miss school days during influenza season.

Please look for information from your child's school about the new online consent form. Information about the date and time of the flu shot clinic will also be provided by your child's school.

Don't forget to get yourself and your family vaccinated against the flu! Flu vaccine is available from your local DHEC health department and your health care provider. Those age 12 and older can receive the flu vaccine at a pharmacy which offers flu vaccine. I encourage you to find the facility that works best for you.

More information about the flu and flu vaccine clinics is available on our website at www.scdhec.gov/flu.

Sincerely,

Teresa A. Foo, MD, MPH
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