



CCHD

COLE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Serving Cole County Since 1916

To Parent/Guardian:

The Cole County Health Department (CCHD) is pleased to announce we will again be offering the seasonal influenza vaccine for students at your child's school, **this is NOT a vaccine for COVID-19**. The influenza vaccine is safe, effective, and the best way to protect your child from influenza. Children are recommended to receive the influenza vaccine for the following reasons:

- Influenza makes many children sick enough to miss class, after school activities, or even to be hospitalized
- Children can spread influenza to people in the home who could get very sick from influenza, such as grandparents, younger siblings, or infants too young to receive the vaccine
- Children and the elderly are at the highest risk of developing influenza

There will be no upfront cost for the vaccine due to funding from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and Cole County Health Departments' ability to bill private insurance. If you would like to have your child vaccinated at the school clinic, please complete the consent form attached, including the screening questions and insurance information. Please provide a copy of health insurance card.

The flu vaccine will be entered into the State of Missouri's immunization registry, Show Me Vax. Below is the link to the vaccine information statement for the inactivated influenza vaccine. A copy of the vaccine information sheet will also be sent home with your child the day they receive the vaccine.

http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis_flu_inactive.asp

Only the injectable form of the influenza vaccine will be available.

If you have any questions about the vaccination clinic, you may either contact your child's school or call the health department at: 573-636-2181 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Your child's health care provider may also answer your questions about the influenza virus and vaccine.

Sincerely,

Tara Fergerson, RN
Immunization Coordinator
Cole County Health Department