



September 29, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian:

For the ninth year, Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the Anne Arundel County Department of Health will team up to offer FREE seasonal flu vaccinations for healthy children in grades K-5 in public elementary schools.

The vaccine, FluMist®, is a nasal spray and is a safe, easy way to give the seasonal flu vaccine to children. There is evidence that the nasal spray vaccine works better in younger children than a regular flu shot, and the national Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends the nasal spray for healthy children when it is available.

Enclosed is the Vaccine Information Statement, **“Live, Intranasal Influenza Vaccine (LAIV): What You Need to Know,”** which contains important information about LAIV. FluMist is a brand name for LAIV. Please read the statement carefully, including “Some people should not receive LAIV,” before deciding if your child should be vaccinated with FluMist.

Enclosed you will find a **Consent Form**, allowing your child to be vaccinated against influenza. If you would like your child to participate, please fill out and sign the enclosed Consent Form and return it to your child’s teacher by **Wednesday, October 8, 2014**. No child will be vaccinated without a signed Consent Form.

If your child is under 9 years of age and has not received two or more total doses of influenza vaccine since July 2010 or if you are uncertain about whether or not she/he has received two or more total doses of seasonal vaccine since July 2010, then your child will need a second dose.

The FluMist clinics will be scheduled in your child’s school from October 20 to October 30, 2014. Second dose clinics will be scheduled from December 1 to December 11, 2014. Please check the Department of Health’s website, [www.aahealth.org](http://www.aahealth.org), or the Anne Arundel County Public School’s website, [www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org), for specific clinic dates for your school.

For more information about this year’s seasonal flu vaccine, which offers protection against four flu strains, contact the following resources:

- Your family health care provider
- Your school nurse
- The Department of Health’s Immunization Services at 410-222-4896 or **[www.aahealth.org](http://www.aahealth.org)**

Elementary schools with high flu vaccination rates often notice reduced illness not only among students vaccinated, but among families as well. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to help prevent the spread of the flu and protect the health of your child and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jinlene Chan".

Jinlene Chan, M. D., M.P.H.  
Acting Health Officer  
Anne Arundel County Department of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Arlotto".

George Arlotto, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Anne Arundel County Public Schools