School-Located Flu Vaccination Clinics 2016-2017

School-located flu vaccination clinics will be held in all school districts in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) recommends that all students get vaccinated against the flu. This will limit absences in your school and help you have a healthy year.

Vaccination and administrative staff will be provided by The Wellness Company. The Wellness Company partners with RIDOH to run the school-located flu vaccination program.

How should schools communicate with families about flu vaccination clinics?

Each school will be provided with a flier with specific information regarding their school clinic. This flier is intended for distribution to families. Schools that have requested hard copies for distribution will receive these fliers in their toolkits. (Toolkits will be sent to school liaisons 3-4 weeks before their clinics.) Schools that have chosen to send the flier electronically will receive an email with attachments in September.

In addition to the flier, the parents/guardians of all public high school students will receive a postcard from RIDOH in the mail reminding them of the clinic date at their children’s schools.

School administrators are encouraged to regularly remind parents about their clinic dates. Schools should:

- Distribute flier 2 weeks before the scheduled clinic
- Include clinic date(s) on school calendars
- Send Connect Ed and e-mail messages to parents; resend the night before the event
- Send text message reminders to parents; resend the night before the event
- Include clinic information in newsletters
- Send information to your Parent Organization so they can advertise
- Post fliers/clinic dates on school website
- Include information about the vaccine program in your school handbook
- Make a morning announcement every day one week prior to the clinic (“Clinic Countdown”) – template provided
Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do parents register their children for flu vaccinations?
   - Daytime clinics: Register online at www.thewellcomp.com/school or fill out the consent form attached to the flier and return the form to the school nurse. Evening clinics: Register online at www.thewellcomp.com/school or complete a consent form at the clinic.

2. What if students/families cannot attend the flu clinics scheduled at their school?
   Families are invited to attend any other evening school-located clinic in the state.

3. Where can I find a list of all clinics?
   A complete schedule of clinics can be found at www.health.ri.gov/flu.

4. What are the 2016-2017 Influenza Vaccine Strains?
   The A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (B/Victoria lineage), with the addition of B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage), for the Quadrivalent vaccine.

   Flumist nasal spray flu vaccine will not be available this year. CDC reported that Flumist has shown lower-than-expected effectiveness this past year; therefore, it is not recommended for the 2016-2017 season. Recent studies have shown that the injectable vaccine (flu shot) is most effective at protecting against the flu. To ensure that your child gets the best protection possible, only the flu shot will be available. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

5. Is there a fee to receive a flu vaccine at a school-located clinic?
   There is no out-of-pocket cost for anyone. People with health insurance are asked to bring their insurance cards, but there is NO health insurance requirement. No one will be turned away for lack of insurance.

6. Who is the school liaison and what is his/her role?
   Your school liaison is a representative from your school staff (usually a school nurse or principal) who will be the single point-of-contact for RIDOH regarding the school’s flu vaccination clinic. This individual will receive a toolkit 3-4 weeks before the scheduled clinic with specific guidance for clinic promotion and management.

7. What will school personnel be asked to do to help flu clinics run smoothly?
   Daytime clinics only: School nurses will be asked to collect signed consent forms from
students. School nurses are NOT expected to review these consent forms. School nurses will be provided with a pre-paid envelope and should return completed consent forms to The Wellness Company at least 2 weeks before their scheduled clinic date. The Wellness Company will combine these forms with all online registrations and send a roster to the school nurse.

All clinics: Volunteer personnel are welcome to manage the flow of clinic traffic, greet families, and observe students after they receive their vaccine.

8. **Is there a mandatory wait time after vaccination?**  
Yes, everyone is asked to wait 10 minutes after their vaccination in case of an adverse reaction.

At night, parents should watch their children and go back to the nurse if their child has a reaction to the vaccine. During daytime clinics, schools will monitor students using volunteer staff. The Wellness Company will be providing small round stickers for daytime clinics again this year to document the time the child was vaccinated.

9. **Will pregnant students be vaccinated in schools?**  
No. Flu vaccine will be available for pregnant girls in obstetricians’ offices.

10. **Can children with asthma be vaccinated in schools?**  
Yes.

11. **How will home-schooled children be vaccinated?**  
Home-schooled children may attend any school-located vaccination clinic.

12. **Who should receive 2 doses of flu vaccine?**  
Some children under the age of 9 may need a second dose of flu vaccine. A healthcare provider can advise on whether a child should receive 2 doses of flu vaccine. Note: the school-located flu vaccination (SLV) program does not provide 2nd doses of flu vaccine. If a child has already received the 1st dose (from the program or elsewhere – provider, pharmacy, etc.), he/she will need to get the 2nd dose in a provider’s office.