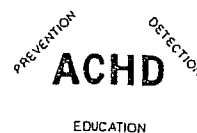




ANSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

POST OFFICE BOX 473

WADESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 28170



Francis N. Kateh MD MHA  
Public Health Director

9/14/2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are pleased to announce that Anson County Schools in conjunction with the Anson County Health Department will be offering in-school flu vaccinations at no cost. This immunization opportunity will be available to all 8-12 graders in our county school system. The vaccine will be administered by school or health department nurses to those who are able to receive flu vaccine and have written parental permission (see attached forms).

Flu is very contagious, especially among children. Flu in children can be serious and can cause fever, headache, extreme tiredness and body aches. Children can be sick with the flu for a week and should be absent from school and childcare during that time.

The single best way to help prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccination each year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommend that all children be vaccinated against the flu. The goal of this immunization initiative is to prevent students from being sick with the flu and spreading it to others in the community. Many members of our local medical community support the flu vaccination campaign and are encouraging school aged children to be vaccinated.

Please read the enclosed information about the flu vaccine and complete all of the attached forms granting permission for your child to be vaccinated against the flu. These forms must be returned to your child's school by **October 13, 2009**. We are unable to vaccinate anyone without completed paperwork.

If you have any questions, please contact the Anson County Health Department at (704) 694-5188 ext. 245, or your child's healthcare provider.

Please carefully consider this opportunity for your child. We also strongly encourage you to contact your child's physician to determine if your child should receive any other vaccinations.

Sincerely,

Linda Jones, RN  
Nursing Supervisor



# INACTIVATED INFLUENZA VACCINE

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW 2009-10

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis).

### 1 Why get vaccinated?

Influenza ("flu") is a contagious disease.

It is caused by the influenza virus, which can be spread by coughing, sneezing, or nasal secretions.

Other illnesses can have the same symptoms and are often mistaken for influenza. But only an illness caused by the influenza virus is really influenza.

Anyone can get influenza, but rates of infection are highest among children. For most people, it lasts only a few days. It can cause:

- fever
- sore throat
- chills
- fatigue
- cough
- headache
- muscle aches

Some people, such as infants, elderly, and those with certain health conditions, can get much sicker. Flu can cause high fever and pneumonia, and make existing medical conditions worse. It can cause diarrhea and seizures in children. On average, 226,000 people are hospitalized every year because of influenza and 36,000 die – mostly elderly. **Influenza vaccine can prevent influenza.**

### 2 Inactivated influenza vaccine

There are two types of seasonal influenza vaccine:

1. **Inactivated** (killed) vaccine, or the "flu shot" is given by injection into the muscle. 2. **Live, attenuated** (weakened) influenza vaccine is sprayed into the nostrils. *This vaccine is described in a separate Vaccine Information Statement.*

These "seasonal" influenza vaccines are formulated to prevent annual flu. They do not protect against pandemic H1N1 influenza.

Influenza viruses are always changing. Because of this, influenza vaccines are updated every year, and an annual vaccination is recommended.

Each year scientists try to match the viruses in the vaccine to those most likely to cause flu that year. When there is a close match the vaccine protects most people from serious influenza-related illness. But even when there is not a close match, the vaccine provides some protection. Influenza vaccine will *not* prevent "influenza-like" illnesses caused by other viruses.

It takes up to 2 weeks for protection to develop after the shot. Protection lasts up to a year.

Some inactivated influenza vaccine contains a preservative called thimerosal. Some people have suggested that thimerosal may be related to developmental problems in children. In 2004 the Institute of Medicine reviewed many studies looking into this theory and concluded that there is no evidence of such a relationship. Thimerosal-free influenza vaccine is available.

### 3 Who should get inactivated influenza vaccine?

*Anyone who wants to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza or spreading influenza to others.*

*All children 6 months and older and all older adults:*

- All children from 6 months through 18 years of age.
- Anyone 50 years of age or older.

*Anyone who is at risk of complications from influenza, or more likely to require medical care:*

- Women who will be **pregnant** during influenza season.
- Anyone with **long-term health problems** with:
  - heart disease
  - kidney disease
  - liver disease
  - lung disease
  - metabolic disease, such as diabetes
  - asthma
  - anemia, and other blood disorders
- Anyone with a **weakened immune system** due to:
  - HIV/AIDS or other diseases affecting the immune system
  - long-term treatment with drugs such as steroids
  - cancer treatment with x-rays or drugs
- Anyone with certain **muscle or nerve disorders** (such as seizure disorders or cerebral palsy) that can lead to breathing or swallowing problems.
- Anyone 6 months through 18 years of age on **long-term aspirin treatment** (they could develop Reye Syndrome if they got influenza).
- **Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.**

*Anyone who lives with or cares for people at high risk for influenza-related complications:*

- **Health care providers.**
- **Household contacts and caregivers of children** from birth up to 5 years of age.
- **Household contacts and caregivers of**
  - people 50 years and older, or
  - anyone with medical conditions that put them at higher risk for severe complications from influenza.

Health care providers may also recommend a yearly influenza vaccination for:

- People who provide **essential community services.**
- People living in **dormitories, correctional facilities**, or under other **crowded conditions**, to prevent outbreaks.
- People at high risk of influenza complications who **travel** to the Southern hemisphere between April and September, or to the tropics or in organized tourist groups at any time.

## 4 When should I get influenza vaccine?

You can get the vaccine as soon as it is available, usually in the fall, and for as long as illness is occurring in your community. Influenza can occur any time from November through May, but it most often peaks in January or February. Getting vaccinated in December, or even later, will still be beneficial in most years.

Most people need one dose of influenza vaccine each year. **Children younger than 9 years of age getting influenza vaccine for the first time** – or who got influenza vaccine for the first time last season but got only one dose – should get 2 doses, at least 4 weeks apart, to be protected.

Influenza vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines, including pneumococcal vaccine.

## 5 Some people should talk with a doctor before getting influenza vaccine

Some people should not get inactivated influenza vaccine or should wait before getting it.

- Tell your doctor if you have any **severe** (life-threatening) allergies. Allergic reactions to influenza vaccine are rare.
  - Influenza vaccine virus is grown in eggs. People with a severe egg allergy should not get the vaccine.
  - A severe allergy to any vaccine component is also a reason to not get the vaccine.
  - If you have had a severe reaction after a previous dose of influenza vaccine, tell your doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you ever had Guillain-Barré Syndrome (a severe paralytic illness, also called GBS). You may be able to get the vaccine, but your doctor should help you make the decision.
- People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting flu vaccine. If you are ill, talk to your doctor or nurse about whether to reschedule the vaccination. People with a mild illness can usually get the vaccine.

## 6 What are the risks from inactivated influenza vaccine?

A vaccine, like any medicine, could possibly cause serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of a vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

Serious problems from influenza vaccine are very rare. The viruses in inactivated influenza vaccine have been killed, so you cannot get influenza from the vaccine.

### Mild problems:

- soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given
- hoarseness, sore or red eyes, cough, itchiness
- fever • aches

If these problems occur, they usually begin soon after the shot and last 1-2 days.

### Severe problems:

- Life-threatening allergic reactions from vaccines are very rare. If they do occur, it is usually within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot.
- In 1976, a type of influenza (swine flu) vaccine was associated with Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS). Since then, flu vaccines have not been clearly linked to GBS. However, if there is a risk of GBS from current flu vaccines, it would be no more than 1 or 2 cases per million people vaccinated. This is much lower than the risk of severe influenza, which can be prevented by vaccination.

## 7 What if there is a severe reaction?

### What should I look for?

Any unusual condition, such as a high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

### What should I do?

- **Call** a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- **Tell** the doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
- **Ask** your provider to report the reaction by filing a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form. Or you can file this report through the VAERS website at [www.vaers.hhs.gov](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov), or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

*VAERS does not provide medical advice.*

## 8 The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

A federal program exists to help pay for the care of anyone who has a serious reaction to a vaccine.

For more information about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, call 1-800-338-2382, or visit their website at [www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation](http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation).

## 9 How can I learn more?

- Ask your provider. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
  - Call 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or
  - Visit CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)  
Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (8/11/09) 42 U.S.C. §300aa-26

# Anson County Health Department Flu Vaccination Program- 2009

Please complete this form if you wish for your child to receive free Flu vaccine at school.

This form **MUST** be returned to your child's teacher by Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**\*\*\* DO NOT return this form if you do not want your child to receive the Flu Vaccine.\*\*\***

## Child's Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name MI

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Male ☐ Female ☐  
Month Day Year

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_, NC \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City Zip Code

## Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's Name (Including Maiden Name) ( ) - ( ) -  
Home Phone Number Work/Mobile Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's Name ( ) - ( ) -  
Home Phone Number Work/Mobile Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Guardian Name (if applicable) ( ) - ( ) -  
Home Phone Number Work/Mobile Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Name ( ) - ( ) -  
Home Phone Number Work/Mobile Phone Number

**Please circle "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions. All questions **MUST** be answered for your child to be eligible to receive Flu vaccine. If you need clarification or more information about a question, you can contact the Anson County Health Department at 704-694-5188.**

My child has had a life-threatening reaction to FLU vaccine in the past	Yes	No
My child has a <b>severe</b> allergy (hives or trouble breathing) to eggs, gentamicin, gelatin, MSG or arginine (all contained in the flu vaccine).	Yes	No
My child has a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome.	Yes	No
My child has received a FLU vaccine this fall (2009).	Yes	No

My Child is: (Please check ☒ all that apply)

- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Has Medicaid Recipient I.D. number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Has no Medical Insurance
- ☐ Has medical insurance but it does not cover immunizations
- ☐ Has private insurance (Please provide copy of card)
- Private Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_
- Policy or Group Number \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of Policyholder \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I give permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_,  
print child's name here

to receive flu vaccine at school. This vaccine is provided at no cost. I have read the Vaccine Information Statement for the flu vaccine and have had my questions answered by my child's doctor or the Anson County Health Department. I understand that I have the opportunity to review the Anson County Public Health's *Notice of Privacy Practices* by contacting the Anson County Health Department by calling 704-694-5188 and requesting a copy by mail.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return this completed form to your child's teacher by Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 so your child can participate in the Flu School-Site Immunization Project.

**\*\*DO NOT return this form if you do not want your child to receive the Flu vaccine.\*\***

We do encourage you to contact your private doctor or the Anson County Health Department for flu vaccine.

For Local Health Department use Only:					
Date	Type of Vaccine	Route	Mfr Lot:#	Date of VIS	Nurse Signature

Eligible child was not able to be vaccinated today due to: ☐ Illness ☐ Uncooperative ☐ Absent ☐ Other