

July 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**Subject: Free Flu Vaccine Will be Offered at School**

Every flu season, thousands of children become sick with the flu, and some can become very sick. Getting the vaccine every year is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends all people over six (6) months of age get vaccinated with the injectable flu vaccine. The injectable flu vaccine (flu shot) is the only type of flu vaccine that will be offered. **FluMist nasal spray will not be given this season.**

Thanks to generous support from MU Health Care, Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services is once again able to offer this year's flu vaccine **free of charge** at Boone County schools. Flu vaccine will be available for all children in preschool through 12th grade. We are working with your child's school to provide this year's seasonal flu vaccine to children at their school. Vaccination clinics will be held this fall and you will be notified by your school of the dates once the clinics are scheduled. **If you decide not to vaccinate, or if you do not return the required permission form to the school, the free seasonal flu vaccine will not be given to your child at school. The opportunity to get your child vaccinated is encouraged but not mandatory. This vaccine is free.**

If you have questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, contact your school nurse or Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services at 573.874.7356. You can also learn more at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>. Beginning later in the fall, all Boone County children (age 6 months through 18 years old) can receive free flu vaccine at our clinic, located at 1005 W. Worley St. in Columbia. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 573.874.7356.

Sincerely,



Stephanie K. Browning, Director  
Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services