

September 19, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian;

The Department of Health offers seasonal influenza vaccine for children aged 6 months through 18 years. Influenza vaccination helps protect children from the flu and its complications and decreases the spread of influenza in the community, as children are often the biggest spreaders of the disease to adults and other children.

An influenza vaccination clinic for school-age children will be held at the **Hill City Middle School Chorus room on Monday, October 3 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. (Same day as parent teacher conferences).**

In a change from previous years, the Department of Health can no longer provide vaccine to all children free of charge.

- Some children still qualify for free vaccine through a federal program. Contact the Community Health office listed below for more information.
- Vaccine provided to children covered by Medicaid or private insurance will be billed to insurance.
- **A copy of the Medicaid or insurance card must be included with the consent form.**

If a child age 8 or younger has not previously had two doses of flu vaccine (before July 1, 2016) in their lifetime, he/she will need two doses of vaccine this year separated by 4 weeks. You can contact the Community Health Office or your medical provider to schedule the second dose.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to come to the clinic to be with their child when the vaccine is administered. **If you would like your child to receive the vaccine but you are unable to attend the clinic, please complete the following:**

1. Review the Vaccine Information statement carefully. Keep for future reference.
2. Complete the Seasonal Influenza Consent Form with a signature and the phone number you can be reached at during the time of the clinic.
3. **If your child has Medicaid or insurance, attach a copy of the child's card to the consent form (both sides if two sided).**
4. Return the completed consent form and copy of insurance card to the school **secretary** by **September 26, 2016.**

If you have questions about the vaccine or the scheduled clinic, please contact *Teah Bell, RN, Nurse Site Coordinator* or *Marcia Benning, RN, Community Health Nurse.*

*Community Health office  
South Dakota Department of Health  
909 East St. Patrick Street Suite 7  
Rapid City, SD 57745  
605-394-2516*