

Parents of children kindergarten through grade 5:

The Flu Mist Vaccination Program is back!

How?

Grant funds have been made available to through the federal government to support the Flu Mist program in Maryland public schools.

Why?

- Seasonal Influenza (Flu) causes fever and respiratory illnesses each year in people of all ages, especially children. Children are important “spreaders” of Flu to their families and communities.
- Vaccinating children in their school is an efficient way to help protect them and their families against the Flu. Also, a school-based program means parents don't have to miss work or other activities to vaccinate their children.

What?

- The State of Maryland is conducting a school-based Flu vaccination program using a licensed nasal-spray Flu vaccine given in the school. The vaccine is being offered at no charge.
- In September nurses in your child's school will give the nasal-spray Flu vaccine to eligible children whose parents agree to participate in this program. A second dose of the nasal-spray Flu vaccine will be given to eligible children in October who are under 9 years of age and who received their first and only dose of the Flu vaccine last year.

About the vaccine: Healthy children ages 5 years and over can receive the nasal-spray Flu vaccine. A CDC fact sheet about the nasal-spray vaccine will be sent to you to provide more specific information about the vaccine. It describes who should not receive the vaccine.

How to sign up: If you want your child to receive the nasal-spray Flu vaccine for free in their school this fall, you will need to complete a couple of consent forms and return them to your child's homeroom teacher. These forms will be sent home during the second week of school. Look for them beginning on August 31, 2009.

What will happen next: The first nasal-spray Flu vaccine dose will be given to children during school hours in September and October. Specific dates will be provided when they are available.

For more information call the Carroll County Health Department: 410-876-4921 or 410-876-4922.