

September 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Columbus Public Health is working with our school to offer flu vaccinations for students this year. This vaccine clinic is an easy and convenient way for your child to be protected against the flu.

- **School: Ohio School for the Deaf**
- **Clinic date: Thursday, October 18**
- **Turn in form by: Wednesday, October 3**
- **Return form to: Nurse**

To sign your child up for our school clinic, please read the attached Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) and complete the attached consent form. **The form must be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian and all health questions must be answered.**

Nurses from Columbus Public Health (CPH) will be giving the vaccine. Please note however, **Columbus Public Health will only offer the injectable (shot) flu vaccine.** After the vaccine is given, your child will bring home a card from Columbus Public Health with the date given.

Medicaid and private insurance is billed when possible, but you will not be billed. No child will be denied the flu vaccine due to inability to pay. The *Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program* provides free vaccines to children who are: Medicaid-eligible; without insurance; American Indian or Alaska Native; or underinsured.

Children 8 years old and younger may need a 2nd dose of the flu vaccine to be fully protected. (The 2nd dose is given at least 1 month after the 1st dose.) Returning the attached consent form gives permission for both doses, if needed, as determined by the CPH nurse. Additionally, if your child gets the flu vaccine from another provider after you've returned the consent form, please send an updated vaccine record to the school to avoid a duplicate vaccine being given to your child.

If you prefer to have your child vaccinated by your own healthcare provider, we encourage you to do so, even though we are offering it at school. The flu virus is easily spread and can cause children to miss many days of school so it is important for them to be protected.

If you have any questions, please call the CPH nurse at 614-645-5037. More information also is available at: <http://columbus.gov/publichealth/>.

We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity to protect your child from the flu this year!

Sincerely,

OSD School Nursing Staff