



OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR

Knox County Health Department  
140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

July 30, 2018

Dear Parent,

For the 14th year, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) will offer flu vaccinations to children who are 6 months to 18 years of age in many Knox County schools. **This year, FluMist, the nasal spray vaccine, will be offered once again.** The FluMist manufacturer has made changes to the vaccine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has approved it for use this coming flu season. Getting the flu vaccine each year helps reduce illness, reduce the spread of flu, and keep children in school and families healthy.

**No child will be vaccinated without a completed, signed and returned consent form.** The consent form can be completed online at [www.knoxcounty.org/health/schoolflu](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health/schoolflu). If you choose, you can complete the paper consent form, available through the schools or printed from the above mentioned website. Please fill out the form completely, sign it and submit it online or return it to your child's teacher. More information about this program, the flu vaccine and the most recent Vaccine Information sheet (VIS) is available at the above mentioned website.

**Please be sure to complete the insurance section of the consent form;** insurance status will not determine whether a child is vaccinated. If you do not have insurance, mark the "No Insurance" box. If you have insurance, KCHD will bill your insurance, which is crucial in maintaining this important program. Please note:

- There is no cost to you for this vaccination
- You will not be billed
- You will not have a co-pay

The FluMist (intranasal) vaccine has a very small amount of porcine gelatin, which is made from pork products. Porcine gelatin is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and is a medically safe ingredient used in some vaccines and medications. We know that this ingredient may be of concern for religious or other dietary reasons and want you to make an informed decision.

The date and time of your school's clinic will be posted on KCHD's website ([www.knoxcounty.org/health/schoolflu](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health/schoolflu)). If your child misses the school's flu clinic, you may call KCHD at 865-215-5500 to schedule a free flu vaccination for your child at one of our clinics. Per the CDC, children under the age of nine, who have not had at least two doses of flu vaccine before, will need two (2) doses separated by at least 28 days. If this is the case with your child, we will return to the school to give the second dose.

We strongly encourage getting the flu vaccination to help keep your child and our community healthy. If you have questions about the flu vaccine, you may contact your doctor's office, call us at 865-215-5150 or visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) or [www.knoxcounty.org/health/schoolflu](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health/schoolflu).

Sincerely,

Martha Buchanan, MD  
Director and Public Health Officer