

October 2nd, 2017
Dear Parent;

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 *Groton Elementary School* on **Tuesday October 24th** from 11-5:30pm.

In a change from previous years, the Department of Health now bills insurance for influenza vaccine.

- Vaccine provided to children covered by Medicaid or private insurance will be billed to those insurances.
- If your child has insurance coverage, **a copy of the Medicaid or insurance card must be attached to the consent form.** If you are unable to make a copy, please contact the Day County Community Health Office for additional options.
- Children **not** covered by Medicaid or private insurance may qualify for vaccination through a federal vaccine program. Please contact the Day County Community Health office to see if your child is eligible.

Children age 8 or younger who have not had two doses of flu vaccine in their lifetime prior to July 1, 2016 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.
4. Return the completed consent form and copy of insurance card to the school by **Wednesday October 18th**.

If you have questions please contact *Day County Community Health Office* at 605-345-3882 or the Groton school nurse, Beth Gustafon, RN @ 397-2317.

Day County Community Health office
South Dakota Department of Health
711 W 1st St Suite 102, Webster, SD 57274