

Fight the Flu in Arkansas

Dear Parent,

It is very important that you read this letter and follow through with the steps required so that your child can be protected from the flu.

This year, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), school districts are holding Flu Immunization clinics in schools to provide flu vaccine for students.

For your child to receive the flu vaccine, you must:

1. Read the Vaccine Information Statement for the vaccine.
2. Read and complete the front and back of the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) consent form.
3. PRINT clearly all information required on the ADH consent form.
4. Make sure you have signed the ADH consent form for the flu vaccine.
5. Sign the school district (FERPA) consent form (you may have signed this form at the beginning of the school year when your child was registered for school).
6. Return both consent forms to your child's school as quickly as possible.

This is a great opportunity for children to receive this vaccine with no charge to you. If you have insurance, ADH will ask your insurance company to pay for the cost of giving the vaccine. If you do not have insurance or your insurance does not pay for vaccines, there will still be no charge to you.

REMEMBER, only those students with the required completed paperwork (the signed ADH consent AND the school district FERPA consent) will be allowed to receive the flu vaccine.

If you should have any questions or concerns about the vaccines or the ADH consent form, please contact your local health unit.

Thank you.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PRIVACY NOTICE—Abbreviated Version

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is committed to protecting your health information. ADH is required by law to protect the privacy of health information about you and that can be identified with you, which we call “protected health information,” or “PHI” for short. We must give you notice of our legal duties and privacy practices concerning PHI, and we are required to abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect. This notice is to inform you about our privacy practices and legal duties related to the protection of the privacy of your medical/health records that we create or receive.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

ADH staff will only use your PHI when doing their jobs. The purposes of the use and sharing of PHI are for treatment, payment for services and for Agency operations.

Treatment: Caregivers, such as nurses, doctors, therapists, nutritionists and social workers, may use your PHI to determine your plan of care. Individuals and programs within the ADH may share PHI about you in order to coordinate the services you may need, such as clinical examinations, therapy, nutritional services, medications, hospitalization, or follow-up care.

For Payment: The ADH may release PHI about you to Medicaid, Medicare, and/or your health plan/insurance carrier to obtain payment for our services. For example, we may need to give your health plan PHI about a clinical exam or vaccinations that you or your child received, so your health plan or Medicaid or Medicare will pay us for treatment or services.

For Operations: The ADH may use and release PHI about you to ensure that the services and benefits provided to you are appropriate. For example, we may use your PHI to evaluate our treatment and service programs (quality assurance). We may combine PHI about many individuals to research health trends, to determine what services and programs should be offered, or whether new treatments or services are useful. We may share your PHI with business partners who perform functions on behalf of the ADH. For example, our business partners may use your PHI to perform case management, coordination of care, or other activities, and they must abide by the same level of confidentiality and security as ADH when handling your PHI.

YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RIGHTS

Release of your PHI outside of the boundaries of ADH-related treatment, payment, or operations, or as otherwise permitted by state or federal law, will be made *only* with your specific written authorization. This authorization is required to release the following types of information: Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Family Planning, HIV/AIDS, Mental Illness, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program. You may revoke specific authorizations to release your PHI, in writing, at any time. If you revoke an authorization, we will no longer release your PHI to the authorized recipient(s), except to the extent that the ADH has already used or released that information in reliance of the original authorization. In addition, you have the following rights:

Right to Inspect and Copy: You may request to inspect or have a copy of any part of your health record. We may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies associated with your request.

Right to Request Amendment: If you feel that the PHI the ADH has created about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend that information. The ADH may deny your request if you ask to amend information that: 1) was not created by the ADH; 2) is not part of the PHI kept by the ADH; 3) is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect or copy; or 4) the information is determined to be accurate and complete.

Right to Request an Accounting of Health Information Releases: You may request an accounting of disclosures of your health information. The accounting does not include disclosures for purposes of treatment, payment, health care operations; disclosures required by law for purposes of national security; disclosures to jails or correctional facilities, authorized disclosures, and any disclosures made prior to April 14, 2003.

Right to Request Restrictions: You may request ADH to limit the use or disclosure of your PHI except for treatment, payment, and health care operations. ADH is not required by law to agree to your request.

Right to Request Confidential Communication: You may request, in writing, that ADH communicate with you in a different way or to a different location, for example, using a different mailing address or calling you at a different phone number.

Right to a Paper Copy of this Privacy Notice: You may request a paper copy of this Privacy Notice from ADH at any time.

All requests for inspecting, copying, amending, making restrictions, or obtaining an accounting of your PHI and any questions regarding this Privacy Notice must be directed to the Local Health Unit Administrator.

COMPLAINTS

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the ADH by contacting the ADH HIPAA Program Consultant at (501) 661-2000 or by mail by writing to 4815 West Markham, Slot 31, Little Rock, AR 72205. You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If you request, we will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. No action will be taken against you for exercising your rights or for filing a complaint.



VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT

A Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) is a document, produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), that informs vaccine recipients – or their parents or legal representatives – about the benefits and risks of a vaccine they are receiving.

- To view the VIS for the Live, Intranasal Influenza Vaccine (nasal spray), go to

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flulive.html>. This link can be viewed and downloaded from your desktop, laptop, tablet, smartphone or other web-based electronic device.

- To view the VIS for the Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (shot), go to

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html>. This link can be viewed and downloaded from your desktop, laptop, tablet, smartphone or other web-based electronic device.

- For a paper copy of either the nasal spray or the shot VIS, you can go to your nearest Arkansas Department of Health Local Health Unit and receive a copy. Please call 1-800-462-0599 to find out the closest health unit to you.
- Copies of the flu VIS will also be available at the school the day of the flu clinic.

For more information, contact the Arkansas Department of Health's Immunization Section at 1-800-574-4040. Thank you.

Influenza is a serious disease...

Make sure your child is protected!

What is influenza?

Influenza (flu) is a serious disease caused by a virus.

Influenza can make your child feel miserable. Fever, cough, shaking chills, body aches, and extreme weakness are common symptoms.



How do you catch influenza?

Your child can catch influenza from people who cough, sneeze, or even just talk around him or her. It is very contagious.

Is influenza serious?

Ask
your child's
healthcare provider
if your child is
up to date for all
vaccines!

Yes. Tragically, every year infants, children, teens, and adults die from influenza.

Influenza is dangerous for children as well as for people of all ages. Children younger than 2 years of age are at particularly high risk for hospitalization due to complications of influenza.

Influenza is not only serious for your child, but it can be serious for others, such as babies and grandparents, if your child passes the virus on to them.

Is my child at risk?

Yes. Anyone can become seriously sick from influenza – even healthy children.

How can I protect my child from influenza?



Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from getting influenza.

Everyone 6 months of age and older should get vaccinated against influenza every year.

Vaccination not only protects people who get immunized, it also protects others who are around them.

► For more information, visit www.vaccineinformation.org

For other vaccine handouts in this series,
visit www.immunize.org/vaccine-summaries

immunization
action coalition
IAC
immunize.org

Technical content reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Saint Paul, Minnesota • www.immunize.org
www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4312.pdf • Item #P4312 (6/13)

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

Influenza (Flu) Vaccine (Inactivated or Recombinant): *What you need to know*

1 Why get vaccinated?

Influenza vaccine can prevent **influenza (flu)**.

Flu is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Anyone can get the flu, but it is more dangerous for some people. Infants and young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or a weakened immune system are at greatest risk of flu complications.

Pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections and ear infections are examples of flu-related complications. If you have a medical condition, such as heart disease, cancer or diabetes, flu can make it worse.

Flu can cause fever and chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough, headache, and runny or stuffy nose. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

Each year **thousands of people in the United States die from flu**, and many more are hospitalized. Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related visits to the doctor each year.

2 Influenza vaccine

CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated every flu season. **Children 6 months through 8 years of age** may need 2 doses during a single flu season. **Everyone else** needs only 1 dose each flu season.

It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after vaccination.

There are many flu viruses, and they are always changing. Each year a new flu vaccine is made to protect against three or four viruses that are likely to cause disease in the upcoming flu season. Even when the vaccine doesn't exactly match these viruses, it may still provide some protection.

Influenza vaccine **does not cause flu**.

Influenza vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

3 Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccine provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of influenza vaccine**, or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**.
- Has ever had **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** (also called GBS).

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone influenza vaccination to a future visit.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting influenza vaccine.

Your health care provider can give you more information.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

4 Risks of a vaccine reaction

- Soreness, redness, and swelling where shot is given, fever, muscle aches, and headache can happen after influenza vaccine.
- There may be a very small increased risk of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) after inactivated influenza vaccine (the flu shot).

Young children who get the flu shot along with pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13), and/or DTaP vaccine at the same time might be slightly more likely to have a seizure caused by fever. Tell your health care provider if a child who is getting flu vaccine has ever had a seizure.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

5 What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call **9-1-1** and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call **1-800-822-7967**. *VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff do not give medical advice.*

6 The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines. Visit the VICP website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation or call **1-800-338-2382** to learn about the program and about filing a claim. There is a time limit to file a claim for compensation.

7 How can I learn more?

- Ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)** or
 - Visit CDC's www.cdc.gov/flu

Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)
**Inactivated Influenza
Vaccine**



Office use only

8/15/2019 | 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26