

CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

September 11, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Keeping students healthy and in school is important for their education. With flu season fast approaching, our school district has decided to offer flu vaccinations to students in our system. This decision was made based on the recommendations of the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

We will be holding a SEASONAL (*not H1N1*) flu clinic on Friday, September 25, 2009 at the Fire Station Community Room. This clinic will take place during the school day. Vaccine will be administered to those students who are able to receive it without significant distress.

POND COVE STUDENTS GRADES K-4 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE. We are unable to offer vaccines to preschool-age children. We are also unable to serve school-age students who attend another school system or who are home schooled. We have scheduled the clinic on that Early Release day for your convenience. Children younger than 9 years of age getting the Seasonal Flu Vaccine for the first time will need 2 doses, about 4 weeks apart, to be protected. A second clinic will be held at a later date.

Adult vaccinations will not be available at this clinic.

There will be two options for vaccinations. Healthy children can receive FluMist. FluMist is a gentle, pain-free mist that is sprayed into the nose. Please refer to the attached CDC Vaccine Information Statement for more information about FluMist.

Some people cannot receive FluMist and should get an injection. This includes children with asthma or active wheezing, people with a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome, people with a weakened immune system, people with long-term medical conditions such as heart disease, kidney disease, and diabetes, and pregnant women. If your consent form indicates that your child cannot receive FluMist, they will receive the injection.

If you would like your child to receive a flu vaccine at school, please completely fill out the attached consent form and return it to school BY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17. Again, this is SEASONAL vaccine at this time. We expect to offer the H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available.

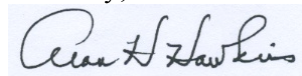
The vaccine is being provided by the State of Maine using federal stimulus money. The administration cost is \$10.00. Our provider, Home Health Visiting Nurses can bill MaineCare, Anthem or Aetna insurance companies.

No one will be turned away due to an inability to pay.

If you would like to learn more about influenza, please go to www.maine flu.gov.

If you have specific questions, please contact your child's healthcare provider.

Sincerely,



Alan H. Hawkins
Superintendent