

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Flu season is nearly here. As you may know, influenza is very contagious, especially among young children. School Age children can carry the virus home to family members. When infected with a Flu virus, children can be sick for a week or more, which may cause them to miss school. Influenza in children cause:

- High Fever
- Headache
- Extreme Tiredness
- Dehydration
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Body Aches

This season Warren County R-III School District and St. John's Mercy Children's Hospital will offer a program that will assist in protecting students against the Flu by providing voluntary FluMist vaccinations. FluMist (Influenza Virus Vaccine Live, Intranasal Vaccination is not a shot); it is a gentle mist sprayed in the nose. Additional information concerning the FluMist Vaccine is enclosed. This voluntary clinic is not meant to replace your family doctor but will help him/her meet the new Center of Disease Control recommendation that all children through age 18 should be vaccinated against influenza yearly.

Warren County R-III will schedule clinic opportunities in each school building for Tuesday, October 27, 2009. These vaccinations are optional and will be offered to all students. Students that receive free or reduced lunches will be eligible to receive the vaccination free of charge. Students not eligible for the free or reduced lunch program may purchase the vaccine at a cost of \$30.00, which is reimbursable through most insurance companies. (Students under the age of nine never vaccinated against influenza before should get two vaccinations at least one month apart. The cost if both are given through these clinics would then be \$60.00). Payment is by check only made payable to **St. John's Mercy** for either \$30 or \$60. A registration form for all students is enclosed and all information submitted will be kept confidential. A form for insurance reimbursement will be sent home after the vaccine is given.

It is our hope that this program will be beneficial for the health of the children. Should you have any questions after reviewing the enclosed information, please contact the school nurse, building principal or your child's healthcare provider.

Sincerely,

John D. Long, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools