



SCHOOL FLUMIST®

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

HARFORD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

In the fall of 2009, the Harford County Health Department will offer **FREE** influenza vaccinations for elementary and middle school children. We will be using FluMist® influenza vaccine. This fact sheet will provide information about FluMist® and the school FluMist® program.

What is FluMist®?

FluMist® is a needle-free flu vaccine — a gentle nasal mist delivered into the nose, where the flu virus usually enters the body. It is not a shot. It is a gentle mist that is sprayed in each nostril.

Is FluMist® as effective as the flu shot?

Studies have shown that FluMist® is at least as effective and perhaps more effective at preventing influenza in children than the standard flu shot.

Will FluMist® protect against the H1N1 flu?

FluMist® will **not** protect against the H1N1 (swine flu) virus but FluMist® is protective against the seasonal flu virus.

Who can be vaccinated with FluMist®?

FluMist® is approved for healthy people 2-49 years of age who are not pregnant. For the school FluMist® program, we will be administering the vaccine to all elementary and middle school aged children that are not contraindicated.

How do I know if my child can not get FluMist®? Is he/she contraindicated?

Those school aged children that should not receive the FluMist® include:

- ◆ Children with medical conditions that place them at high risk for complications from the flu, including chronic heart or lung disease, such as asthma or reactive airway disease; diabetes or kidney failure; or illnesses that weaken the immune system
- ◆ Children taking aspirin or medications that weaken the immune system
- ◆ Children with a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare disorder of the nervous system
- ◆ Children who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs or who are allergic to any of the nasal spray vaccine components.

How many doses will my child need?

If your child is 9 years of age or older, he/she will need only one dose of FluMist®. If your child is 8 years of age or younger, your child may need a second dose if:

- ◆ This will be the first time he/she ever receives any type of flu vaccine (nasal spray or shot), **OR**
- ◆ If, last year, he/she only received one of the two recommended doses of flu vaccine (nasal spray or shot)

How much will the FluMist® cost me?

The FluMist® vaccine will be offered at **no cost** to elementary and middle school children regardless of the number of doses your child needs. The Health Department has received special funding for this project which allows us to offer it free of charge.

Do I need to take time off for my child to be vaccinated?

No. The vaccine will be administered to your child during the school day at your child's school. Health Department staff will be coming to the school to administer the vaccine. Your child will be taken out of class briefly to be given the FluMist® and then returned to class.

Sounds Great. What do I need to do have my child receive the FluMist®?

If you would like your child to receive the FluMist®, please look for the FluMist® consent form that will be sent home from your child's school. Complete the consent and return it to your child's school by the return date.