



HARFORD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

120 South Hays Street

PO Box 797

Bel Air, Maryland 21014-0797

Susan C. Kelly, R.S.
Health Officer

Dear Parent/Guardian:

With the combination of H1N1 influenza and the extreme winter weather, this influenza season has been unpredictable. When H1N1 was affecting many of the schools in the county and the H1N1 vaccine became available, we focused on administering the H1N1 vaccine to school aged children. Since our focus was on H1N1, our seasonal FluMist campaign to elementary schools was delayed.

When we were able to resume the seasonal FluMist campaign, we had to make sure that there was adequate timing between the doses of H1N1 FluMist and seasonal FluMist. We were finally scheduled to return to your child's school last month. Then, the Blizzard of 2010 hit and we had to delay the seasonal FluMist campaign again, much to our disappointment.

At this point in time, we have decided that we will not continue with the seasonal FluMist campaign at the schools. There are many factors that have influenced this decision. First, by the time we reschedule seasonal FluMist in the schools, administer the vaccine, and allow time for the vaccine to take effect (typically 2 weeks after the vaccine has been given), we would likely be past the peak of seasonal flu. Therefore, the benefit of vaccination would not warrant the large scale effort of the Health Department and Harford County Public Schools. Second, some of the seasonal FluMist vaccine that we had planned to use in the February clinics has just expired. Additional doses of FluMist vaccine are not available to complete all the schools. Finally, based on recent seasonal vaccination clinics, the interest in seasonal vaccination has diminished.

That being said, we are still offering no-cost seasonal FluMist for public elementary school aged children at our Health Department office in Edgewood. If you are interested in a seasonal FluMist vaccination for your child, please contact the Health Department at (410) 612-1774 and schedule a time to bring your child in for vaccination.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan C. Kelly".

Susan Kelly
Health Officer