



## HARFORD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

120 South Hays Street

PO Box 797

Bel Air, Maryland 21014-0797

Susan C. Kelly, R.S.  
Health Officer

November 30, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian of Middle School Students:

The Harford County Health Department and Harford County Public Schools will be offering **FREE SEASONAL** flu vaccinations for your middle school child at school, during the week of December, 7th 2009. We will be using FluMist®, a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed influenza vaccine. FluMist® is not a shot and therefore does not require needles. It is a gentle mist that is sprayed into the nose. As a reminder, the seasonal FluMist® vaccine does not protect against the H1N1 (Swine flu) strain.

The school based seasonal FluMist® influenza program was postponed in order to focus on administering H1N1 vaccine to school-aged children. The Health Department has administered injectable (shot) H1N1 vaccine to students in several middle schools throughout the county, and only injectable H1N1 vaccine will be used in the remainder of the middle schools. The mist form of H1N1 vaccine will be used exclusively in elementary schools. The seasonal FluMist® will be offered to middle school students first, instead of elementary school students because there is no wait time between the mist and injectable form of the flu vaccines. For those middle school students who received the mist form of H1N1 vaccine in October, adequate time has passed and they are now eligible to receive the seasonal FluMist®.

This year the seasonal FluMist® vaccine will be offered at **no cost** to you and will be administered during the school day so you will not have to miss work or other activities. Please read the enclosed Vaccination Information Sheet called "**LIVE, INTRANASAL INFLUENZA VACCINE 2009-2010**" for more information about FluMist®.

If you would like your child to be vaccinated against the seasonal flu using the FluMist® vaccine, you must complete, sign, and return the attached "Nasal-Spray Influenza Vaccine Consent Form" to your child's school by **Friday, December 4, 2009**. The form that you signed and returned in September is no longer valid and a new consent form must be signed and returned. Please be sure to get the form in on time so that we may properly plan for your school's vaccination clinic. We will not vaccinate your child unless we receive a completed, signed consent form.

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this offer and have your child/children receive free seasonal flu vaccine. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like more information on FluMist® we suggest the following resources:

1. Contact your family physician/pediatrician
2. Contact the school nurse at your child's school
3. Contact the Health Department (410-612-1774)
4. Check the FluMist® website at [www.flumist.com](http://www.flumist.com)
5. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

Thank you for your flexibility and cooperation as we work together in the best interest of our children to assure that they remain as healthy as possible during the 2009-2010 flu season.

Sincerely,

Susan Kelly, R.S.  
Health Officer  
Harford County Health Department

Robert M. Tomback, PhD.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Harford County Public Schools