



October 11, 2021

Dear Parents/guardians:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that children six months and older receive influenza vaccine every year. Flu vaccination has important benefits for children. It can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed school due to flu, as well as prevent serious complications from influenza infection.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. Myrtue Medical Center's Public Health department is working with Harlan Community Schools to give the seasonal influenza vaccine to children at school. We will be holding a vaccination clinic at Harlan Community Schools on October 19 and October 21, 2021. A consent form for the inactivated form of the flu vaccine or for the live FluMist vaccine is included for your use. Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) have been included for you to review. Please return the consent form back to the school by the morning of the clinic if you want your child to receive the influenza vaccine.

If you would like to refuse vaccination for your child, simply do not return the consent form. No child is eligible for influenza vaccine without a signed consent form.

If you have Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance that pays for vaccinations, please attach a copy of your insurance card for billing purposes. If you have insurance other than Blue Cross and Blue Shield and want to have us give the vaccine to your child, please send a check for \$52.00 for the shot or \$69.00 for FluMist and we will provide a receipt for you to turn into your insurance company. Make checks payable to Myrtue Medical Center.

The Vaccines for Children Program (Free Vaccine) will also be available to those who:

- Have health insurance that does not pay for vaccines (Please attach a copy of your insurance card as this helps us confirm eligibility).
- Is currently enrolled in Medicaid (Please attach a copy of your insurance card).
- Is Native American or Alaskan Native
- Does not have any health insurance

VFC-eligible children will receive the vaccine at no charge. Please mark VFC on the consent form. If you are underinsured or have Medicaid, please provide a copy of your insurance card for eligibility documentation.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call: 712-755-4422 from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Please visit the CDC's 2020 influenza web site at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm> for additional influenza information.

Sincerely,

Lori Hoch RN, BSN
Director of Public Health