

BOARD:
Paul C. Aughtry, III
Chairman
Edwin H. Cooper, III
Vice Chairman
Steven G. Kisner
Secretary



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

BOARD:
Henry C. Scott
M. David Mitchell, MD
Glenn A. McCall
Coleman F. Buckhouse, MD

October 27, 2010

Dear Child Care Provider:

We are grateful for your efforts and those of other child care providers last year to control the spread of the H1N1 flu in our day care centers. Higher influenza vaccine coverage in young children and increased awareness and implementation of other prevention methods (e.g. hand washing) contributed to the low numbers of severe flu cases that could have been seen in last year's pandemic.

We are asking for your diligence this flu season to monitor for the flu and implement interventions to prevent disease transmission. Our mutual goal is to minimize flu related illness which may cause a disruption for your center and the parents of the children you serve.

Your support is vital. Here are some ways you can help achieve our goal:

- **Get the flu vaccination message out to the parents and staff.** The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. To learn more about the vaccines that will be available to assist students in getting immunized, visit the DHEC web site at <http://www.scdhec.gov/flu/index.htm>
- **Hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette are fundamental components of disease prevention, including a flu prevention campaign.**
- **If children or staff members are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that they stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities.**
- **Attached, you will find an electronic information packet that contains basic flu messages and the importance of the vaccine. Please distribute to the parents of the children you serve through emails, text messages, letters and other communication avenues as available.**

Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation. We are looking forward to a healthy and productive year.

Sincerely,

Lisa F. Waddell, MD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner
Health Services

Please include the following messages in your communication to parents to include: newsletters, websites, emails, etc.

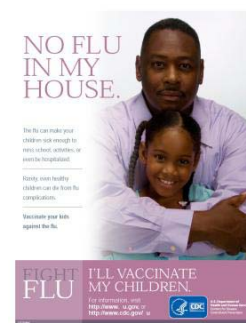
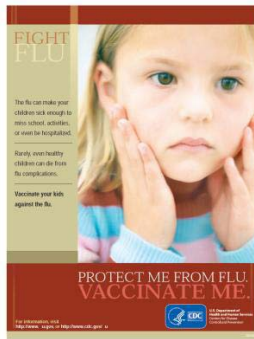
Parents, protect your children. Getting the flu vaccine for you and your child is the first and most important step to prevent illness this flu season. For more information on vaccinating your children see your health care provider or go to <http://www.scdhec.gov/flu/index.htm>

Refer to the following websites and links for free information you can download and post in your schools and community:



<http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/CR-006325.pdf>

<http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/ML-025386.pdf>



http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/family/protectme_girl.pdf

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/family/noflumyhouse_print.pdf

If your kids are a size...



then they need flu vaccines.

Flu protection is recommended in sizes 6 months through 18 years. The flu can be a serious disease for children of all ages, causing them to miss school, activities, or even be hospitalized. CDC and doctors recommend flu vaccinations for everyone 6 months and older.



http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/family/p_t-shirts_print.pdf

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/family/f_spread_fun_print.pdf

See websites for additional materials