



Transylvania County Department of Public Health

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are happy to announce that Transylvania County Schools in conjunction with the Transylvania County Department of Public Health will be offering in-school flu vaccinations with FluMist (Influenza Virus Vaccine Live, Intranasal) vaccinations. Flu is very contagious, especially among young children. The single best way to help prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccination each year. The Centers for Disease Control now recommends that all children should be vaccinated against the flu. This vaccine will be provided in school, **FREE** of charge, and will be given by the Transylvania County Department of Public Health nurses to students who have completed written parental permission and qualify to receive FluMist.

This immunization initiative will be offered to all students Kindergarten thru 12th grade in the Transylvania County School System. Flu in children can be serious and can cause, fever, headache, extreme tiredness, and body aches. Children can be sick with the flu for a week or more, which may cause them to miss school. The goal of this immunization initiative is to raise flu vaccination rates in order to prevent students from getting and spreading the flu and ultimately reducing the burden of the flu on the community. Members of our local medical community support FluMist and are encouraging increased vaccination rates among school aged children.

Timothy Shea, MD (Medical Director for the Department of Public Health recently stated, ".....

Ora J. Wells, MD (a local pediatrician and Board of Health member) also said, ".....

We will be offering this vaccination in mid October thru mid November at your child's school. The nurses from the local Health Department will coordinate with school personnel to give the vaccine at each school during the allotted time frame.

Please read the enclosed information about FluMist and complete all of the attached forms regarding your permission to have or not have your child vaccinated with FluMist. These forms must be returned to your child's school by October 3rd, 2008. We are unable to vaccinate anyone without completed paperwork.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Transylvania County Department of Public Health at 884-3135, or your child's healthcare provider.

Please carefully consider this opportunity for your child.

Sincerely,