

School-Age Influenza Campaign Frequently Asked Vaccine Questions

1. ***What is the cost of the flu shot or FluMist?***
The flu shot and FluMist are provided **FREE** of charge to children in grades K – 12.
2. ***My child doesn't like needles or shots, is there another way to get vaccinated?***
Yes, besides the traditional "flu shot," the nasal spray flu vaccine will be offered.
3. ***Which is better for my child – the flu shot or FluMist?***
Either the shot or the FluMist is equally safe and effective provided that your child does not have certain medical conditions as listed on the consent form.
4. ***Are flu vaccines safe?***
Yes, there is much previous evidence of flu vaccine safety.
5. ***Can my child get the flu from the flu vaccine?***
No, you cannot get the flu from the flu vaccine.
6. ***Are flu illnesses serious?***
Yes, they can be. All people are at some risk of developing severe and even fatal flu infections.
7. ***Are healthy children at risk for serious flu illness?***
Yes, although rare, the flu virus can kill children.
8. ***What if my child is absent when flu vaccinations are given at school?***
The Queen Anne's County Department of Health will have many other clinic dates and times available for your child's free flu vaccine.
9. ***Can my younger or older children and I be vaccinated at the school, too?***
No, only children in kindergarten through 12th grade are eligible for this free flu vaccine program at their school.
10. ***Who will give the flu vaccine to my child(ren)?***
Registered nurses from the Department of Health will administer the flu vaccine.

11. ***Is my child required to be vaccinated against flu?***

No, participation in the school-based program is voluntary and your permission is required for your child to receive the vaccine. However, remember that it is now recommended that all children ages 6 months through 18 years should be vaccinated yearly against the flu.

12. ***Why should my child get the flu vaccine?***

School children have very high rates of flu illness (more than 10% in most years) and are one of the most important sources of flu transmission in the community. Studies show that school children vaccinated against flu have fewer illnesses, fewer absences from school and lower rates of illness in their families during flu season as compared with unvaccinated children.

13. ***Do I have to be present for my child to get the flu vaccine?***

No, but parents are welcome to be present if they choose. Parents must review, sign, and return the consent form for your child(ren) to be vaccinated.

14. ***What if my child has a reaction to the flu vaccine?***

Reactions are rare, but if one does occur, appropriate medical care will be given and attempts will be made to contact you immediately.

15. ***Could my child still get the flu after being vaccinated?***

Yes, it usually takes about two weeks after vaccination for enough antibodies to develop in the body and provide full protection against flu virus infection. In the meantime, your child is still at risk for getting the flu. Also, the flu vaccine will not protect against other flu virus strains that are not contained in this year's flu vaccine or other viruses that cause symptoms similar to the flu.

16. ***Can my child have the flu vaccine if they have had other immunizations recently?***

They may receive the flu shot at any time in relation to other vaccines. However, there must be at least 28 days between an MMR or varicella (chicken pox) vaccine and the FluMist nasal vaccine.

17. ***Who do I call if I have more questions?***

The Communicable Disease staff at the Queen Anne's County Department of Health is available to take your calls at 410-758-0720, ext. 4432 or you may visit www.cdc.gov.