Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Bulloch County Health Department is working with local schools to have seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine available to your child for the upcoming flu season. The influenza vaccine will help protect against influenza strains that are expected to circulate this year.

Depending on whether they received influenza vaccines in the past, children through age 8 may need a second dose approximately one month after the first dose. *If your child needs a second dose*, we will send home another consent form for you to complete and sign before the second dose is given.

The Health Department will be offering influenza vaccination with one of two kinds of vaccine:

- **Flumist**: (Intranasal Live Influenza Virus Vaccine) - is a flu vaccine that is sprayed into the nose.
- **Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV)**: is a flu vaccine that is given as a shot.

The choice of the vaccine provided will depend on the answers to your child’s health questions on the consent form attached.

If you have insurance that covers vaccines, your insurance provider may be charged.

To accept the vaccination for your child, please follow the steps below:

1. Read the “Vaccine Information Statements” included with this letter about the disease and the vaccine.
2. Sign and date the included consent form to accept vaccination for your child.
3. Return the consent form to the school by September 18, 2013.
4. If you accept vaccination, the vaccine will be given to your child during the scheduled vaccination clinic.
5. If the consent form is not signed, dated, and returned, your child will not be vaccinated.
6. School staff will let you know when the vaccination clinic will take place.

We would like to thank you in advance for assisting us in keeping all of our students safe and healthy. Please understand that participation and receipt of the influenza vaccine through this program is completely voluntary.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call: **Bulloch County Health Department at 1-855-SEHDPH (1-855-473-4374).**

Your child’s health care provider can also answer your questions regarding the influenza virus and may be able to give your child the seasonal influenza vaccine. For additional information please visit the CDC’s influenza web site at [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/) and also [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/parents](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/parents).
NOTICE OF PRIVACY POLICIES FOR BULLOCH BOARD OF HEALTH
BULLOCH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1 WEST ALTMAN STREET, STATESBORO, GA 31642 [Ph: 912-764-3800]

Notice of Health Information Practices

THIS NOTICE OF HEALTH INFORMATION PRACTICES DESCRIBES HOW INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Introduction
It is important to us that you understand what information we collect about you and how it is used. We want you to know that we limit the collection and disclosure of information to only that which we believe is necessary to serve you and administer our business. This Notice is effective April 14, 2003, and applies to all protected health information as defined by federal regulations.

Understanding Your Health Record/Information

Each time you visit the health department a record of your visit is made. This record contains your symptoms, examination and test results, diagnoses, treatment, and a plan for future care or treatment. This information, often referred to as your health or medical record, serves as:

1. A basis for planning your care and treatment.
2. A means of communication among the many health professionals who contribute to your care.
3. A legal document describing the care you received.
4. A way that you or a third-party payer can verify that services billed were actually provided.
5. A tool in educating health professionals.
6. A source of data for medical research.
7. A source of information for public health officials charged with improving the health of this state and the nation.
8. A source of data for our planning and marketing.
9. A tool with which we can assess and continually work to improve the care we render and the outcomes we achieve.
10. A source of supporting data, which allows us to receive state and federal funding to provide public health services.

Understanding what is in your record and how your health information is used helps you to ensure its accuracy. You can better understand who, what, when, where, and why others may access your health information. It allows you to make more informed decisions when authorizing disclosure to others.

Your Health Information Rights

Although your health record is the property of the health department, the information belongs to you. You have the following rights:

1. To receive a paper copy of this notice of information practices upon request.
2. To inspect and/or receive a copy of your health record.
3. To amend your health record
4. To receive an accounting of disclosures of your health information.
5. To request communications of your health information by other means or at other locations.
6. To request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your information.
7. To revoke your authorization to use or disclose your health information except to the extent that action has already been taken.

Our Responsibilities

The health department is required to:

1. Maintain the privacy of your health information.
2. Provide you with this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices regarding information we collect and maintain about you.
3. Abide by the terms of this notice.
4. Notify you if we are not able to agree to a requested restriction.
5. Agree to reasonable requests from you to deliver health information in other ways or at other locations.

We reserve the right to change our practices and to make those changes effective for all protected health information we maintain. Should our information practices change, we will post the revised notice in our facility and provide you with a copy on request.

We will not use or disclose your health information without your permission except as described in this notice. We will also discontinue to use or disclose your health information after we have received a written revocation of the authorization according to the procedures included in the authorization.

Revision 1-09/2002
For More Information or to Report a Problem
If you are comfortable with the content of this policy and will allow us to exchange information about you as outlined, then you need only to sign the acknowledgement attached. If you prefer to limit disclosure of information about you, please note that on the acknowledgement form and contact the BULLOCH County Board of Health Privacy Officer for further information.

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you can file a complaint with the health department’s Privacy Officer, or with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint with either the Privacy Officer or the Office for Civil Rights. The address for the OCR is listed below:

Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201

Examples of Disclosures for Treatment, Payment and Health Operations

We will use your health information for treatment.

For example: Information obtained by a nurse, physician, or other member of your health care team will be recorded in your record and used to determine the course of treatment that should work best for you. Your physician will document in your record his or her expectations of the members of your health care team. Members of your health care team will then record the actions they took and their observations. In that way, the physician will know how you are responding to treatment. If you receive additional treatment from another physician, hospital, or laboratory we may share information with that provider about services you received in this facility.

We will use your health information for payment.

For example: A bill may be sent to you, a health insurance company, Medicaid or Medicare. The information on or with the bill may include information that identifies you, as well as your diagnosis, procedures, and supplies used. We may contact or share information with other providers for payment services.

We will use your health information for regular health operations.

For example: Members of the medical staff, the risk or quality improvement manager, or members of the quality improvement team may use information in your health record to assess the care and outcomes in your case and others like it. This information will then be used in an effort to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of the healthcare and service we provide.

Business associates: There are some services provided in our organization through contacts with business associates. Examples are the providers of our computer software where electronic records are kept. To protect your health information, however, we require the business associate to appropriately safeguard your information.

Communication with family: Health professionals, using their best judgment, may disclose to a family member, other relative, close personal friend or any other person you identify, health information relevant to that person’s involvement in your care or payment related to your care.

Research: We may disclose information to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information.

Funeral directors: We may disclose health information to funeral directors consistent with applicable law to carry out their duties.

Organ procurement organizations: Consistent with applicable law, we may disclose health information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of organs for the purpose of tissue donation and transplant.

Planning/Marketing: We may contact you to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that that you may be eligible for.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): We may disclose to the FDA health information relative to adverse events with respect to food, supplements, product and product defects, or post marketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacement.

Workers compensation: We may disclose health information to the extent authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers compensation or other similar programs established by law.

Public health: As required by law, we may disclose your health information to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability. We may also disclose your health information to support funding from state and federal grants for the various public health services we provide and the administration of public health services.

Law enforcement: We may disclose health information for law enforcement purposes as required by law or in response to a valid subpoena.

Federal law makes provision for your health information to be released to an appropriate health oversight agency, public health authority or attorney, provided that a work force member or business associate believes in good faith that we have engaged in unlawful conduct or have otherwise violated professional or clinical standards and are potentially endangering one or more patients, workers or the public.

Revision 1-09/2002
Influenza Vaccine

What You Need to Know

1 Why get vaccinated?

Influenza ("flu") is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every winter, usually between October and May.

Flu is caused by the influenza virus, and can be spread by coughing, sneezing, and close contact.

Anyone can get flu, but the risk of getting flu is highest among children. Symptoms come on suddenly and may last several days. They can include:
- fever/chills
- sore throat
- muscle aches
- fatigue
- cough
- headache
- runny or stuffy nose

Flu can make some people much sicker than others. These people include young children, people 65 and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions—such as heart, lung or kidney disease, or a weakened immune system. Flu vaccine is especially important for these people, and anyone in close contact with them.

Flu can also lead to pneumonia, and make existing medical conditions worse. It can cause diarrhea and seizures in children.

Each year thousands of people in the United States die from flu, and many more are hospitalized.

Flu vaccine is the best protection we have from flu and its complications. Flu vaccine also helps prevent spreading flu from person to person.

2 Inactivated flu vaccine

There are two types of influenza vaccine:

You are getting an inactivated flu vaccine, which does not contain any live influenza virus. It is given by injection with a needle, and often called the "flu shot."

A different, live, attenuated (weakened) influenza vaccine is sprayed into the nostrils. This vaccine is described in a separate Vaccine Information Statement.

Flu vaccine is recommended every year. Children 6 months through 8 years of age should get two doses the first year they get vaccinated.

Flu viruses are always changing. Each year’s flu vaccine is made to protect from viruses that are most likely to cause disease that year. While flu vaccine cannot prevent all cases of flu, it is our best defense against the disease. Inactivated flu vaccine protects against 3 or 4 different influenza viruses.

It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after the vaccination, and protection lasts several months to a year.

Some illnesses that are not caused by influenza virus are often mistaken for flu. Flu vaccine will not prevent these illnesses. It can only prevent influenza.

A “high-dose” flu vaccine is available for people 65 years of age and older. The person giving you the vaccine can tell you more about it.

Some inactivated flu vaccine contains a very small amount of a mercury-based preservative called thimerosal. Studies have shown that thimerosal in vaccines is not harmful, but flu vaccines that do not contain a preservative are available.

3 Some people should not get this vaccine

Tell the person who gives you the vaccine:

- If you have any severe (life-threatening) allergies, including an allergy to eggs. If you ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of flu vaccine, or have a severe allergy to any part of this vaccine, you may be advised not to get a dose.

- If you ever had Guillain-Barré Syndrome (a severe paralyzing illness, also called GBS). Some people with a history of GBS should not get this vaccine. This should be discussed with your doctor.

- If you are not feeling well. They might suggest waiting until you feel better. But you should come back.
Risks of a vaccine reaction

With a vaccine, like any medicine, there is a chance of side effects. These are usually mild and go away on their own.

Serious side effects are also possible, but are very rare. Inactivated flu vaccine does not contain live flu virus, so getting flu from this vaccine is not possible.

Brief fainting spells and related symptoms (such as jerking movements) can happen after any medical procedure, including vaccination. Sitting or lying down for about 15 minutes after a vaccination can help prevent fainting and injuries caused by falls. Tell your doctor if you feel dizzy or light-headed, or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

Mild problems following inactivated flu vaccine:
- soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given
- hoarseness; sore, red or itchy eyes; cough
- fever
- aches
- headache
- itching
- fatigue

If these problems occur, they usually begin soon after the shot and last 1 or 2 days.

Moderate problems following inactivated flu vaccine:
- Young children who get inactivated flu vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13) at the same time may be at increased risk for seizures caused by fever. Ask your doctor for more information. Tell your doctor if a child who is getting flu vaccine has ever had a seizure.

Severe problems following inactivated flu vaccine:
- A severe allergic reaction could occur after any vaccine (estimated less than 1 in a million doses).
- There is a small possibility that inactivated flu vaccine could be associated with Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), no more than 1 or 2 cases per million people vaccinated. This is much lower than the risk of severe complications from flu, which can be prevented by flu vaccine.

The safety of vaccines is always being monitored. For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/

What if there is a serious reaction?

What should I look for?
- Look for anything that concerns you, such as signs of a severe allergic reaction, very high fever, or behavior changes.

Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, and weakness. These would start a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.

What should I do?
- If you think it is a severe allergic reaction or other emergency that can’t wait, call 9-1-1 or get the person to the nearest hospital. Otherwise, call your doctor.
- Afterward, the reaction should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your doctor might file this report, or you can do it yourself through the VAERS web site at www.vaers.hhs.gov, or by calling 1-800-822-7967.
VAERS is only for reporting reactions. They do not give medical advice.

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines.

Persons who believe they may have been injured by a vaccine can learn about the program and about filing a claim by calling 1-800-338-2382 or visiting the VICP website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation.

How can I learn more?
- Ask your doctor.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
- Call 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or
- Visit CDC’s website at www.cdc.gov/flu

Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)
Inactivated Influenza Vaccine

07/26/2013
42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26
VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT

Influenza Vaccine
What You Need to Know

1 Why get vaccinated?

Influenza ("flu") is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every winter, usually between October and May.

Flu is caused by the influenza virus, and can be spread by coughing, sneezing, and close contact.

Anyone can get flu, but the risk of getting flu is highest among children. Symptoms come on suddenly and may last several days. They can include:

- fever/chills
- sore throat
- muscle aches
- fatigue
- cough
- headache
- runny or stuffy nose

Flu can make some people much sicker than others. These people include young children, people 65 and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions—such as heart, lung or kidney disease, or a weakened immune system. Flu vaccine is especially important for these people, and anyone in close contact with them.

Flu can also lead to pneumonia, and make existing medical conditions worse. It can cause diarrhea and seizures in children.

Each year thousands of people in the United States die from flu, and many more are hospitalized.

Flu vaccine is the best protection we have from flu and its complications. Flu vaccine also helps prevent spreading flu from person to person.

2 Live, attenuated flu vaccine—LAIV, Nasal Spray

There are two types of influenza vaccine:

You are getting a live, attenuated influenza vaccine (called LAIV), which is sprayed into the nose. "Attenuated" means weakened. The viruses in the vaccine have been weakened so they can't make you sick.

A different vaccine, the "flu shot," is an inactivated vaccine (not containing live virus). It is given by injection with a needle. This vaccine is described in a separate Vaccine Information Statement.

Flu vaccine is recommended every year. Children 6 months through 8 years of age should get two doses the first year they get vaccinated.

Flu viruses are always changing. Each year's flu vaccine is made to protect from viruses that are most likely to cause disease that year. While flu vaccine cannot prevent all cases of flu, it is our best defense against the disease. LAIV protects against 4 different influenza viruses.

It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after the vaccination, and protection lasts several months to a year.

Some illnesses that are not caused by influenza virus are often mistaken for flu. Flu vaccine will not prevent these illnesses. It can only prevent influenza.

LAIV may be given to people 2 through 49 years of age, who are not pregnant. It may safely be given at the same time as other vaccines.

LAIV does not contain thimerosal or other preservatives.

3 Some people should not get this vaccine

Tell the person who gives you the vaccine:

- If you have any severe (life-threatening) allergies, including an allergy to eggs. If you ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of flu vaccine, or have a severe allergy to any part of this vaccine, you should not get a dose.

- If you ever had Guillain-Barré Syndrome (a severe paralyzing illness, also called GBS). Some people with a history of GBS should not get this vaccine. This should be discussed with your doctor.

- If you have gotten any other vaccines in the past 4 weeks, or if you are not feeling well. They might suggest waiting. But you should come back.
You should get the flu shot instead of the nasal spray if you:
- are pregnant
- have a weakened immune system
- have certain long-term health problems
- are a young child with asthma or wheezing problems
- are a child or adolescent on long-term aspirin therapy
- have close contact with someone who needs special care for an extremely weakened immune system
- are younger than 2 or older than 49 years. (Children 6 months and older can get the flu shot. Children younger than 6 months can’t get either vaccine.)

The person giving you the vaccine can give you more information.

4 Risks of a vaccine reaction

With a vaccine, like any medicine, there is a chance of side effects. These are usually mild and go away on their own.

Serious side effects are also possible, but are very rare. LAIV is made from weakened virus and **does not cause flu**.

**Mild problems** that have been reported following LAIV:

*Children and adolescents 2-17 years of age:*
- runny nose, nasal congestion or cough
- fever
- headache and muscle aches
- wheezing
- abdominal pain or occasional vomiting or diarrhea

*Adults 18-49 years of age:*
- runny nose or nasal congestion
- sore throat
- cough, chills, tiredness/weakness
- headache

**Severe problems** that could follow LAIV:
- A severe allergic reaction could occur after any vaccine (estimated less than 1 in a million doses).

The safety of vaccines is always being monitored. For more information, visit: **www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/**

5 What if there is a serious reaction?

**What should I look for?**
- Look for anything that concerns you, such as signs of a severe allergic reaction, very high fever, or behavior changes.

Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, and weakness. These would start a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.

**What should I do?**
- If you think it is a severe allergic reaction or other emergency that can’t wait, call 9-1-1 or get the person to the nearest hospital. Otherwise, call your doctor.
- Afterward, the reaction should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your doctor might file this report, or you can do it yourself through the VAERS website at **www.vaers.hhs.gov**, or by calling **1-800-822-7967**.

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7 How can I learn more?

- Ask your doctor.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
  - Call **1-800-232-4636** (1-800-CDC-INFO) or
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Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)
Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine

07/26/2013
42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26