



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000
Governor Mike Beebe
Paul K. Halverson, DrPH, FACHE, Director and State Health Officer

Dear Parent,

As part of Governor Mike Beebe's health initiative, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), and your local school district would like to offer you the opportunity for your child(ren) to receive a free seasonal flu shot.

Seasonal flu shots are not required for children to attend school, but they are highly recommended. The Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatricians recommend that all children aged 6 months and older receive a seasonal flu shot every year. Each year, about 36,000 Americans die of seasonal flu or complications from seasonal flu. Seasonal flu causes children to miss school and their parents to miss work. Seasonal flu vaccine purchased by ADH will not contain preservative.

After school begins, your child(ren) will bring home a **consent form** with the date that the shots will be given and a fact sheet about the seasonal flu shot. If you want your child(ren) to receive this FREE flu shot, you must sign and return the consent form. Your child(ren) will not be able to receive a shot without your signed permission.

This form will ask if your child(ren) have Arkansas Medicaid (ARKids 1st - A or B) or state health insurance (insurance for Arkansas state employees). ADH will bill Medicaid or state insurance for the flu shot if your child(ren) are eligible. All children will be able to receive their flu shot whether or not they have Medicaid or state insurance. **You will not be billed for this flu shot.**

If you have a child who is under 9 years of age and has never received a seasonal flu shot before, he/she will need a second seasonal flu shot for full protection. You will need to bring your child to your local ADH health unit or health care provider for a second shot 4 weeks after the first shot.

Thank you for sharing your child(ren) with us. It is our hope that your child(ren) have the best school year, yet, and we thank you for the opportunity to help you keep your child(ren) as healthy as possible. If you have any questions about the flu shot, please call your school district or local health unit for more information.

Sincerely,

Paul K. Halverson, DrPH
Director and State Health Officer
Arkansas Department of Health

Diana Julian, EdD
Interim Commissioner
Arkansas Department of Education