

September 28, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The William F. Ryan Community Health Center's School Based Health Program is pleased to be able to offer the seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine to any student who is registered with the School Based Health Center.

What parents need to know:

The flu vaccine is updated every year to combat the flu viruses that research indicates are most likely to cause illness during the coming season. The seasonal flu vaccine is recommended for all people over 6 months old. The seasonal flu vaccine consists of a series of one or two shots, depending on your child's age and previous vaccination history against seasonal influenza. Children under the age of 9 should receive 2 vaccines, 4 weeks apart, if they have never received the seasonal flu vaccine before. Children age 9 and older require only one dose for the seasonal flu vaccine.

We have both the intranasal (nose) and injection form of the seasonal flu vaccine. The type of vaccine that your child receives will be based on his/her medical history and current supply at the school based health center.

What you need to do:

If you are interested in having your child receive the flu vaccine at the Ryan School Based Health Center, please complete the screening and consent form on the reverse side of this letter and have your child return it to his/her teacher. Please return the form on/before October 7th so that we can organize the consents, set up appointments by class and begin vaccinating the children by class as soon as possible. **We will not vaccinate your child unless we have a signed consent.** The vaccine information statements for both types of flu vaccines can be viewed at www.cdc.gov/vaccines. If you have any questions about the vaccines or influenza, please feel free to call us anytime at (212)666-2261. You may also contact the CDC at 1-800-232-4636 or www.cdc.gov, New York City Department of Health at www.nyc.gov/flu or your child's regular health care provider.

Sincerely,

Linda Mikolay

Linda Mikolay, FNP-BC, Supervisor School Based Health Program