



BOARD OF HEALTH
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IN-SCHOOL FLU VACCINATION INFORMATION
(Note: Process Has Changed From Prior Years)

September 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Hamilton-Wenham High School Students:

This year, the influenza virus is expected to be circulating in Massachusetts throughout the fall and winter and into the spring of next year. Influenza can cause serious illness and can result in missed days of school as well as missed days of work for parents. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. In order to ensure that every school-aged child in Hamilton has the opportunity to receive the flu vaccine and to make it convenient for parents, we will be hosting school-based influenza vaccination clinics again this fall. The vaccination will be offered free of charge and regardless of insurance status to any student with parental consent during school hours.

Enclosed you will find one consent form and one Vaccine Information Statements:

- **To accept vaccination for your child**, please fill out the **front and back** of the consent form with your child's information. If you do not have insurance, your child can still get vaccinated - just leave the insurance area blank. **You must then sign and date the form to accept vaccination for your child and return it to the High School School Nurse by Friday, October 18, 2019.**
- If you consent to vaccination, the vaccine will be given to your child in school. **Vaccinations will be given on October 22nd and your child will be sent home with a Vaccine Information Sheet on the day they are vaccinated.** If your student is absent on that day, your child will not be vaccinated at school. Please follow up with your child's pediatrician.
- **If you do not return the required consent form by the October 18th deadline, the vaccination will not be given to your child.**

[Click here to access the consent form](#)

Massachusetts has an electronic database called the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) for all immunization records, and your child's flu vaccination will be entered into this database. There is more information about the MIIS on the back of this letter.

If you have any questions about the MIIS, flu vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please do not hesitate to contact the Hamilton Health Department at 978-468-5579.

We would like to remind you and your child to continue to wash hands, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home from school if sick. Please visit www.mass.gov/dph/flu for more information on important prevention measures that you can take to help keep your family healthy.

Hamilton Board of Health

INFORMATION ON MIIS

The Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) is a statewide, electronic record-keeping system (or registry) that keeps track of your immunizations (shots). This new system will help keep complete and accurate records of the shots that you or your children get from any doctor or healthcare provider in Massachusetts. It was developed by the Immunization Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The MIIS will keep all of your important immunization information together in one place for you and all of your healthcare providers so that they will know which shots you and your children are due for and when.

Immunization registries like the MIIS help healthcare providers make sure that everyone is up-to-date on their immunizations to keep us all healthy and prevent the spread of harmful disease. The system has been created according to state law, which requires that healthcare providers who give immunizations report them to the MIIS. All information in the MIIS is kept confidential. You may choose to limit the providers who may see your or your child's immunization records in the MIIS. If you prefer that your or your child's immunization history **not** be shared with other healthcare providers who use the MIIS, you must complete the MIIS Objection Form. If you change your mind, you can fill out the same form to have your or your child's immunization information shared in the MIIS. The Objection form can be found here:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/immunization/miis-objection-form.pdf>

For more information, visit the MIIS website or contact the Massachusetts Immunization Program directly at 617-983-6800 or 888-658-2850.

VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT

Influenza (Flu) Vaccine (Inactivated or Recombinant): *What you need to know*

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

1 Why get vaccinated?

Influenza vaccine can prevent **influenza (flu)**.

Flu is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Anyone can get the flu, but it is more dangerous for some people. Infants and young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or a weakened immune system are at greatest risk of flu complications.

Pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections and ear infections are examples of flu-related complications. If you have a medical condition, such as heart disease, cancer or diabetes, flu can make it worse.

Flu can cause fever and chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough, headache, and runny or stuffy nose. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

Each year **thousands of people in the United States die from flu**, and many more are hospitalized. Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related visits to the doctor each year.

2 Influenza vaccine

CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated every flu season. **Children 6 months through 8 years of age** may need 2 doses during a single flu season. **Everyone else** needs only 1 dose each flu season.

It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after vaccination.

There are many flu viruses, and they are always changing. Each year a new flu vaccine is made to protect against three or four viruses that are likely to cause disease in the upcoming flu season. Even when the vaccine doesn't exactly match these viruses, it may still provide some protection.

Influenza vaccine **does not cause flu**.

Influenza vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

3 Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccine provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of influenza vaccine**, or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**.
- Has ever had **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** (also called GBS).

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone influenza vaccination to a future visit.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting influenza vaccine.

Your health care provider can give you more information.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

4 Risks of a vaccine reaction

- Soreness, redness, and swelling where shot is given, fever, muscle aches, and headache can happen after influenza vaccine.
- There may be a very small increased risk of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) after inactivated influenza vaccine (the flu shot).

Young children who get the flu shot along with pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13), and/or DTaP vaccine at the same time might be slightly more likely to have a seizure caused by fever. Tell your health care provider if a child who is getting flu vaccine has ever had a seizure.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

5 What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call **9-1-1** and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call **1-800-822-7967**. *VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff do not give medical advice.*

6 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. Visit the VICP website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation or call **1-800-338-2382** to learn about the program and about filing a claim. There is a time limit to file a claim for compensation.

7 How can I learn more?

- Ask your healthcare provider.
- 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 www.cdc.gov/flu

Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)
**Inactivated Influenza
Vaccine**



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