D H E C
PROMOTE PROTECT PROSPER
Catherine B. Templeton, Director
Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

August 28, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is working with the VaxCare Corporation and your school district to provide influenza (flu) vaccine at your child's school this fall.

For your convenience:

- Both types of flu vaccine, the nasal mist and the shot, will be available.
- Vaccine will be provided at no cost or low cost:
  - If your child is covered by Medicaid or does not have any health insurance, there is no charge for the vaccine.
  - If your child has private health insurance that covers flu vaccine, VaxCare will bill your insurance.
  - If your insurance company does not pay for the flu vaccine, you will receive a bill from VaxCare or DHEC. You will not be charged more than $25.00 for the shot or $30.00 for the nasal mist.
- Some children under 9 years of age need a second dose of flu vaccine to get the best protection against the flu. DHEC and VaxCare will have a second clinic at your child's school for these children. You will be notified if your child needs a second dose.
- Please visit the DHEC website at **http://www.scdhec.gov/flu/** for more information regarding school-located vaccination clinics. Privacy notices for both DHEC and VaxCare are available for your review on the website.

If you would like to have your child vaccinated at school, please do the following:

1. Read the Vaccine Information Statements regarding both types of the influenza (flu) vaccine (nasal mist and the flu shot). These are available at **http://www.scdhec.gov/flu/** on the **School-Located Vaccination Clinics** webpage. If you need a paper copy or are unable to download from our website, please contact Beth Turner, RN, MSN, at 803-983-9117 or email at turnerls@dhec.sc.gov .

2. Fill out the front and back of the Parent/Guardian Consent Form. The health questions on the form will help us decide if your child should get the nasal mist or the shot. **Do not fill out the consent form if you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccine at school.**

3. Return the Consent Form to the school within five (5) days of receiving this letter. **The completed Consent Form must be received by the school at least 2 weeks prior to the assigned vaccination clinic date.**

4. **IMPORTANT:** After returning the consent, you must contact Beth Turner, RN, MSN, at 803-983-9117 or email at turnerls@dhec.sc.gov prior to the assigned vaccination clinic date for your child's school **IF:**
   - There are any significant changes in your child's health.
   - Your child receives an antiviral medication 48 hours or less before the assigned vaccination clinic date.
   - Your child receives any vaccine in the 30 days before the assigned vaccination clinic date.
   - You decide you no longer want your child to receive the flu vaccine at school.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent the flu. Let us help you keep your child healthy and in school this flu season.

Sincerely,

Linda Johnson

Linda Johnson
Public Health Director, Pee Dee Region