

# Carroll County Health Department

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## Getting Your Flu Shot is as Easy as Going to School

Westminster, MD (October 10, 2018) – From October 22nd through October 25th, Carroll County Public Schools will hold Flu Vaccination Clinics in all schools. Parents or guardians won't need to take time off from work and take their student to their primary care provider, pharmacy, or clinic to get vaccinated. But they do need to turn in the flu vaccination consent forms or complete them online by Friday, October 12th in order for their children to participate in the school clinics.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 181 children died nationwide last season from the flu, the highest number ever reported in a regular flu season. Approximately 80% of those deaths occurred in children who did not receive a flu vaccination in the past season. There were also record-breaking levels of illness and hospitalization.

This flu vaccination campaign is a collaborative effort of the Carroll County Health Department, the Carroll County Public Schools, and the Maryland Partnership for Prevention. It is easy to participate. All a parent or guardian has to do is sign up on-line at <https://immunizemaryland.org/school-clinic-consent-form> or get a paper consent from the school nurse. This program is for students with or without health insurance. Students with insurance will need to provide insurance information but there is no co-pay or deductible.

Carroll County Public Schools has been working with Maryland Partnership for Prevention trained medical professionals to administer injectable flu vaccine for the past two years.

“Students, even the young ones, do amazingly well receiving an injectable flu vaccine in the school setting,” said Maria Carr, Supervisor of the Carroll County Health Department’s Maternal Child Health Program, which includes child vaccinations. “This is one time when peer pressure can be a good thing. Students see peers get their shot and a band aid and they want to follow suit. Maryland Partnership for Prevention vaccinators are specially trained to work with children who are afraid of needles. It is a very positive process.” This year the vaccine is Fluarix Quadrivalent licensed for children 6 months and up. It is Thimerosal-free. Flu vaccines are very safe and you cannot get the flu from the vaccine.

For more information on flu vaccinations, visit <http://cchd.maryland.gov/flu/> or <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2018-2019.htm> or contact Carroll County Health Department at 410-876-4900.

Don't forget the deadline for in school flu consents is October 12, 2018 so don't delay...sign up today!

**What:** In School Flu Vaccines

**Where:** All Carroll County Public Schools

**When:** October 22, 23, 24, 25 (look for school messaging to see what day your school is vaccinating)

Deadline for sign up: October 12th

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Contact: Maria Carr, 410-876-1884