

## 2016 In-school Flu Shot FAQs

### **Why are flu shots being given this year instead of the FluMist?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that only the flu shot be used for the 2016-2017 flu season due to new evidence that showed a decline in the FluMist's effectiveness in recent years.

### **Is the FluMist available at my doctor's office or at the local drug stores?**

Due to the CDC's ACIP recommendation that the FluMist not be used this for the 2016-2017 flu season, FluMist will not be available at the doctor's office or pharmacy locations.

### **Who gives flu shots to the children during the in-school vaccination clinics?**

When the Knox County Health Department conducts in-school flu vaccination clinics, health department nurses along with other skilled nurses subcontracted from local vendors give the vaccinations.

### **What should my child expect on the day when the in-school flu shots are given?**

Groups of children will be brought to the in-school clinic area. Knox County Health Department employees will speak with each child to verify that he/she has a completed flu shot consent form and feels well that day. The child will then be directed to a nurse who will review the consent form, reassure the child if needed, and perform the flu vaccination. After the vaccination is complete, the nurse will again assess the child to ensure that he/she is feeling well before allowing the child to leave the shot area.

### **What happens if my child is worried or scared about getting the flu shot at the school clinic?**

If your child is worried or anxious about getting the flu shot, we will make an effort to reassure him/her, and we will encourage but will not force a child who is clearly upset. In that case, we will simply give the child a note to bring home indicating that he/she preferred not to get the shot at school.

### **Will there be a place to lie down if my child feels faint?**

Yes, we will work with each school to ensure that there is safe, convenient, place for children to lie down if they feel faint after the flu shot.

### **How long is the Knox County Health Department on-site after the flu shots have been given?**

We will remain on-site at the school for a minimum of 30 minutes after the last flu shot is given.

### **Why do some children end up getting a second dose of the flu vaccine?**

If a child is less than 9 years old and has never received a flu vaccine before, the CDC recommends that he/she get a second dose at least 28 days after the first flu vaccination. The two doses provide maximum protection from the flu virus.

### **Are the flu shots single dose syringes or are they from a multi-dose vial?**

Only single dose syringes will be used at the in-school clinics.

### **Is there thimerosal in the flu shots being given?**

There is no thimerosal (mercury) in the flu shots that will be given at the schools.

### **How do I get a record of my child's flu vaccination after it is given?**

To get a copy of your child's flu vaccination record for yourself or for your pediatrician's office, you can visit [www.knoxcounty.org/health/schoolflu](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health/schoolflu) and click on the medical records request link or call (865) 215-5024 to speak with someone in Medical Records.