

October 19, 2011

Re: Upcoming School Vaccination Clinic

For the fifth year, the Department of Health will provide free seasonal flu vaccine for children aged 6 months through 18 years. The department is also making Tdap vaccine available at no cost to children aged 10-14 years who have not been previously vaccinated.

Tdap vaccine protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Several states are reporting outbreaks of whooping cough. In South Dakota, many parents are unaware that a one-time Tdap booster is recommended for their adolescent children.

Influenza vaccination helps protect children from the flu and its complications and decreases the spread of influenza in the community, as children are often the biggest spreaders of the disease to adults and other children.

Children age 8 years and younger who did not receive flu vaccine last flu season will need 2 doses of flu vaccine this year separated by 4 weeks.

A vaccination clinic for children will be held at the Sanborn Central School on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 8:00 am.

The injectable influenza vaccine (flu shot) for children of all ages and Tdap vaccines for children ages 10-14 will be available. These vaccines can be safely given at the same time.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to come to the clinic to be with their child when the vaccine is administered. If you would like your child to receive the vaccine but are unable to attend the clinic, please complete the following:

- Review the Vaccine Information Statements carefully - keep for future reference
- Verify whether your 10-14 year old has been vaccinated with Tdap.
- Complete the consent forms for the vaccine/s you wish your child to receive;
 - All school children are eligible for free flu vaccine
 - Children aged 10-14 who have not been previously vaccinated with Tdap are eligible for free Tdap vaccine
- Return the completed consent form/forms to the school by Monday, October 31st

If you have questions about the vaccines please contact the County Nurse at 796-4510. If you have questions about the clinic, please contact Mary Ackman at 495-4183