

BYRAM TOWNSHIP PTA

September 11, 2009

Dear **Byram School** Parent:

Influenza - commonly referred to as "the flu"- is a serious and potentially deadly disease.¹ Students miss approximately 38 million school days due to influenza each year,² and parents miss more than 10 million workdays caring for these sick youngsters.³ Influenza is contagious and can be transmitted easily between adults and children.¹

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the single best way to prevent influenza is to receive a vaccination each year.⁴ Receiving an annual vaccination is more important than ever because the CDC now recommends that all children from six months through 18 years of age should be vaccinated against influenza.^{5*}

PTA is committed to helping keep children, parents and the entire community of **Byram Township** healthy throughout the influenza season.

That is why PTA and the Byram School is partnering with Flu Busters, a leading provider of on-site vaccinations, and Novartis Vaccines to provide convenient access to affordable influenza vaccinations for all members of our community.

To help keep everyone healthy, we will be
hosting a vaccination clinic at the
Byram Intermediate School in the Library
on October 14, 2009 3:00-7:30 p.m. for the whole family.*

Vaccinations will be administered by qualified health professionals and each vaccination will cost **30.00**. **Please note that this is refundable thru most insurance carriers.** Medicare Part B will be accepted from those eligible. Participants will also be able to receive additional tips on staying healthy during this influenza season.

Let's Fight Flu Together! We hope to see you on **October 14, 2009**.

Warm regards,
Byram PTA

* *Influenza vaccines are not currently approved for children under six months of age and may not prevent the disease in 100 percent of individuals. Persons should consult their healthcare providers to determine if they have a condition that precludes them from receiving the vaccine. All vaccines have side effects. The most common side effects of influenza vaccines include local reactions and mild general symptoms.*

(references on back page)

References:

1. Questions & Answers: Seasonal Influenza.

Available at: www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/disease.htm. Accessed May 2008.

2. Adams PF, Hendershot GE, Marano MA; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. Current estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1996. *Vital Health Stat 10*. 1999;Oct;1-203.

3. Neuzil KM, Hohlbein C, Zhu Y. Illness among schoolchildren during influenza season. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*. 2002;156:986-991.

4. Key Facts About Seasonal Influenza. Available at: www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm. Accessed May 2008.

5. Prevention and Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Available at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr57e717.pdf. Accessed July 2008.