

RE: Influenza Vaccination Clinic

For the fourth year South Dakota is offering free seasonal influenza vaccine to all children 6 months through 18 years of age.

Vaccinating children helps protect them from serious influenza illness and complications and decreases the spread of influenza in the community as children are often the biggest spreaders of influenza to adults and other children. During the 2009-2010 flu season, 69% of cases were children 18 and younger and 50% of flu-related hospitalizations were for children 18 and younger.

A flu clinic for school-age children will be held at Sanborn Central on *October 20, 2010 at 8:00 am*. The state is supplying the vaccine free of charge and there will be no administration fee at the school-based clinic.

Some children age 8 and younger need 2 doses of vaccine this year:

- Children aged 6 months – 8 years who did not receive any 2009-10 H1N1 vaccine need 2 doses separated by 4 weeks.
- Children aged 6 months – 8 years who are receiving seasonal flu vaccine for the first time need 2 doses separated by 4 weeks.
- Children aged 6 months – 8 years who received seasonal flu vaccine for the first time last year but only had 1 dose need 2 doses this year separated by 4 weeks.

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 you are unable to attend the clinic, please complete the following:

- Review the Vaccine Information Statement carefully – keep for future reference.
- Complete the Seasonal Influenza Consent Form
- Return the completed consent form to the school by *Tuesday, October 19, 2010*

If you have questions about the vaccine or the scheduled clinic, please contact *Sanborn County Nurse* at 796-4510.