
Frequently Asked Questions

What is Influenza Vaccine "Flu Shot"?

It is a vaccine to help protect from the flu virus, which is spread by coughing, sneezing and nose secretions. Influenza is very contagious. Children have the highest rates of getting the flu. Getting a flu vaccine can protect you from flu, but it can also help avoid spreading the flu to others.

When can I get the vaccine?

Adult and older children need 1 dose of influenza vaccine each year. But some children younger than 9 years of age getting their first influenza vaccine need 2 doses (4 weeks apart) of vaccine. If your child has not received 2 doses of influenza since July 2010, they may require 2 doses.

Who Can Get the Flu Shot?

It is recommended that all people 6 months and older receive a flu shot. There are 2 types of flu vaccine that can be used. You will have the option to choose for your child.

- **Flu Shot** – an injection of inactivated (killed) vaccine given with a needle.
- **Flu Mist** – is sprayed into the nostrils. It is made with live, weakened flu viruses.
This can only be given to *healthy* people ages 2-49 years of age & those who are *not* pregnant.

When will there be protection from the vaccine?

With the flu shot & nasal mist it can take up to 2 weeks to be protected from the influenza virus.

Who Can't Get an Influenza Vaccine?

Any person who answers **yes** to any of the following questions **CANNOT** have the flu shot.

- An allergy to eggs, egg products, gelatin, arginine.
- Have had a severe allergic reaction to previous influenza vaccinations.
- History of Guillain-Barre Syndrome

What is a School-Located Vaccination Clinic?

A clinic located at the school to give children vaccinations.

Do the parents need to be present?

No. The vaccination can be given if the parent/guardian signs the vaccination consent form. If you'd like to be present for the vaccination, please follow the visitor policy at your child's school.

What if the information on the screening form is not complete?

You will be contacted by a nurse from Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS) or school staff to get the missing information. If unable to get the information, no vaccination will be given and you will be notified.

Why are you asking for an email address?

This is for the parent's/guardian's convenience. CCHHS will be sending out your child's vaccine record and a survey after the school event. We can send this information directly to your email.

What if my child resists the vaccination?

Your child will not be restrained in order to vaccinate him/her. If your child is not vaccinated as planned, you will be notified, either in writing or verbally.

What other options do I have for getting my child vaccinated?

- Your child's primary care physician may be able to vaccinate your child, or
- CCHHS Immunization Clinic on Thursdays: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. No appointment is needed.

Will my insurance information be used for other services?

The insurance information provided to Carson City Health and Human Services for your child's Influenza vaccination will be used only for the administration fee of the vaccination and the vaccine.

What health insurance plans does Carson City Health & Human Services accept?

Aetna, Amerigroup, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Cigna, Coventry Health Care, Government Employee Health Association (GEHA), Hometown Health, Humana, Nevada Preferred Healthcare Provider Network, St. Mary's Health Plans and Universal Health Network.

What are the qualifications for the Vaccine for Children Program (VFC)?

- ❖ Children through the age of 18, and **one** of the following:
 - Child is uninsured
 - Child has Medicaid
 - Child is American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Child's insurance plan does not cover immunizations

What is the cost of the immunization if my child is eligible for VFC?

- If your child is eligible for the VFC program, the only cost is the *reduced* administration fee of \$15.00 or whatever you can afford at the School-Located Vaccination Clinic.
- The cost of the vaccination at CCHHS clinic for VFC-eligible children is \$20.00.
- Your child's primary care physician may charge a different administration fee.

What is the cost of the immunization if CCHHS is unable to bill my insurance?

- The cost of the vaccination at the School-Located Vaccination Clinic is a reduced fee of \$20.
- The cost of the vaccination at Carson City Health and Human Services is \$25 or \$30.
- Your child's primary care physician may charge a different fee.

Will I get a receipt to submit to our health insurance plan or for a flexible spending account?

Yes, if you pay the \$20 you will receive a receipt to submit it to your health insurance plan.

Will my health insurance plan pay for my child's vaccinations?

Most will; however, some do not. Contact your health insurance plan for details.

Where do I find the Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS)?

The Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS) has information about the disease, explanation of who should get the vaccine, the risks of the vaccine, and what to do if your child has a severe reaction. The VIS can be found at:

- <http://www.carsoncityschools.com>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.pdf>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flulive.pdf>

Why is CCHHS vaccinating children during school hours?

It is the State of Nevada's goal, and the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to increase the Influenza vaccination rates of children. Benefits include:

- Strengthens protection of unvaccinated children/staff through "herd immunity",
- Parents or guardians don't have to take time off work because children can be vaccinated without them being present.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?

Contact Rachael Rasner, RN, BSN at 775-283-7503
Carson City Health and Human Services
rrasner@carson.org

