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October 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Pierce County Health Department will again be providing flu clinics for school-aged children this fall as part of an emergency preparedness exercise. The vaccine will be provided at **no cost to all students** regardless of insurance status.

The Health Department will be only giving “flu shots” this year. Why no FluMist? The original studies showed it was performing as well as (and sometimes better than) flu shots. Unfortunately, there have been recent problems with how well the nasal spray has worked. No one knows why this has happened. Many people are trying to learn why, so that nasal spray flu vaccine may in the future again be an option for kids. The state press release on flu mist is available at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/070616.htm>

River Falls School Clinic Information:

Date: Thursday November 10

Time: During school day

Location: Rocky Branch, Montessori, and High School

This year we will be going to each elementary school, the middle school and high school during the school day. We have done this in other districts and the students have done very well.

If you would like your child to receive the vaccine, a permission slip must be filled out by a **parent/legal guardian** unless the student is a legal adult. The parent does not need to be present at the clinic if the child brings in a signed permission form. Permission forms and vaccine information sheets are posted on the school website and are available at the school offices.

If you have questions regarding the clinic, please contact the Health Department at 715-273-6755 or your school nurse. For more information on children and the flu and the flu vaccine, please visit the CDC website <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/children.htm>

Sincerely,

Pierce County Health Department Staff

Our mission is promote healthy behaviors, prevent disease and injury, and protect against environmental hazards.
