Post Office Box 1359 | Brandon, MS 39043 | p 601.825.5590 | f 601.825.2618

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Flu season is here, and RCSD wants to keep your children and the adults who care for them healthy.

Influenza ("the flu") is an infectious disease caused by a virus. When children are in a group with other children, they are more likely to get infectious diseases like influenza. Children with certain conditions are at high risk for complications from the flu, but most children who get the flu are healthy. The flu virus can cause serious illness that may result in hospitalization or death. Even one death from the flu is too many – it's essential for us to work together to protect the children in our care.

The single best way to protect against influenza is to get vaccinated each year because protection against the flu wears off over time. In addition, the flu strains in the vaccine are often changed from one year to the next to match the flu viruses expected to be circulating in the community.

We will be offering flu shots for *$28.00* at the schools beginning October 15-18. The schedule for our Flu Shot clinic locations is posted at www.rcsd.ms

If you would like for your student to be vaccinated for the FLU you must:

1. **Read the vaccine information statement from the CDC for the influenza vaccine;**
2. **Complete the consent form (ONE PER PERSON);**
3. **Make check payable to Brandon Discount Drugs (BDD) for the amount of $28.00. Include a driver's license number, current address, and phone number on your check (ONE CHECK PER PERSON);**
4. **Staple payment to the consent form and return it to your child's school office.**

You and your family should get vaccinated for influenza every year. A flu vaccine is the best way to protect you against the flu.

You may be interested to know that we encourage all of our staff to get vaccinated for the flu!

If you have questions, please talk with your school nurse or see the resources on our website.

Stay Healthy,

Jamie Ely, RN
RCSD Nurse Manager