

Shoo the Flu Brings Free, Easy, and Convenient Flu Vaccine Program to Oakland Schools

Free Flu Vaccine Available in October for All Participating Oakland Elementary Schools

OAKLAND, Calif.--[Sept. 19, 2017]-- [Shoo the Flu](#), a program to reduce influenza in the community, is returning this fall with free flu vaccines for students and teachers at elementary schools throughout the Oakland area. Shoo the Flu is a partnership of the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD), California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), and funded by the Page Family Foundation.

Now in its fourth year, Shoo the Flu has provided over 28,000 vaccinations at Oakland area schools since 2014. Nearly 100 Oakland-area schools are hosting Flu Vaccine Days this fall, making Shoo the Flu one of the largest community-based flu vaccination programs. Shoo the Flu is endorsed by a number of Bay Area organizations including Anthem Blue Cross Medi-Cal Health Plan, Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health, California Chapter 1 of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and others.

“As a parent and a pediatrician, it is so rewarding to provide a service that is convenient for families, safe, free to students and staff, and improves the overall health of the community,” said Erica Pan, MD, MPH, Director of the Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at Alameda County Public Health Department. “Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu. Shoo the Flu provides free flu vaccines to students where they attend school, helping to keep vaccination coverage rates high so students can stay flu-free and in school.”

Flu Vaccine Days:

- Flu Vaccine Days will run October through early November and are primarily at elementary and K-8 schools this year.
- Flu Vaccine Days are held at private schools, charter schools, schools of the Catholic Archdiocese of Oakland, and all OUSD elementary schools. To find out if Shoo the Flu is at your school this fall and when the Vaccine Day is, visit the website at www.ShooTheFlu.org/resources.
- For students to get the free flu vaccine at their school, parents/guardians must complete and return a consent form, available from schools or at www.ShooTheFlu.org/consent.
- Students receive the same flu vaccine they would get from a regular healthcare provider.
- Nurses or supervised nursing students will give the vaccine to all students with completed consent forms, during school hours. Still curious about how it works? Check out our home page video at www.ShooTheFlu.org!
- All students, regardless of insurance, are encouraged to get the free flu vaccine at school. All vaccination records will be entered into the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) for healthcare providers to see. Paper documentation will also be given to students.

Shoo the Flu has received positive feedback from both schools and families, citing the ease of the program and the convenience for families.” I welcome Shoo the Flu each year...students and staff may not be able to afford or take the time to get the shot. Thanks to you all!” said a staff member at Fred T. Korematsu Discovery Academy. “I just want to say thank you for what you do. That helps a lot for flu season. Some families don’t have the time or pay enough attention to flu season until it is too late. I would love if you come back next year. Awesome work.”, remarked a Kaiser Elementary school staff member.

About the Flu

The flu, also called influenza, is a contagious disease that spreads by coughing, sneezing and close contact and research has shown that children are often more likely to spread the disease than adults. Flu symptoms include fever/chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough and headache. The flu is preventable. The flu vaccine is the most effective way to reduce the chances that people will get the flu and spread it to others. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the flu vaccine for all individuals 6 months and older who do not have contraindications. People can also protect themselves from the flu by having healthy habits: covering their cough with their shoulder or sleeve (not their hands), washing hands frequently and staying home if they do get sick.

About Shoo the Flu

Shoo the Flu is a program to prevent the flu by bringing flu vaccine to Oakland elementary school students. By protecting students against the flu, the benefits extend to the larger community. It is a collaboration among the Alameda County Public Health Department, California Department of Public Health and the Oakland Unified School District, and funded by the Page Family Foundation. Shoo the Flu is endorsed by California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics, Anthem Blue Cross Medi-Cal Health Plan, Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health, Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association, the California Academy of Family Physicians Alameda-Contra Costa County Chapter, Alameda County Center for Healthy Schools and Communities, and the Community Health Center Network.

About Oakland Unified School District

In California’s most diverse city, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) is dedicated to creating a learning environment where “Every Student Thrives!” More than half of our students speak a non-English language at home. And each of our 86 schools is staffed with talented individuals uniting around a common set of values: Students First, Equity, Excellence, Integrity, Cultural Responsiveness and Joy. We are committed to preparing all students for college, career and community success.

To learn more about OUSD’s Full Service Community District focused on academic achievement while serving the whole child in safe schools, please visit [OUSD.org](https://www.ousd.org) and follow us on Twitter and Facebook at @OUSDnews.

About Alameda County Public Health Department

Covering 13 cities, including Alameda, Piedmont, Oakland, Hayward, Fremont, Dublin and Livermore, the Alameda County Public Health Department provides programs and services to protect the health -- more -- and safety of County residents. ACPHD includes assessments of the health status of residents, disease prevention and control, community mobilization and outreach, policy development, education, and assurance of access to quality medical and health care services. With more than 600 employees, ACPHD is made of public health doctors, epidemiologists, dentists, medical social workers, therapists, dietitians, health educators, and program managers in Health and Medical Services divisions. A key component of the ACPHD mission is seeking community involvement, including partnerships with grassroots and corporate entities, with individuals and groups.

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