



In Partnership with
Alameda County Public Health Department
California Department of Public Health
Oakland Unified School District

Shoo the Flu Brings Flu Protection for Oakland Students and Teachers

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

OAKLAND, Calif.--[Sept. 14, 2016]-- [Shoo the Flu](#), a program to reduce influenza in the community, is back to offer free flu vaccines for students at elementary schools throughout the Oakland area. Now in its third year, 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. More than 100 Oakland-area schools are hosting Flu Vaccine Days, making Shoo the Flu one of the largest community-based flu vaccination programs.

“We’ve provided almost 20,000 vaccinations to students and staff at Oakland area schools since 2014 and we are proud to champion school-based flu vaccine programs as one of the most effective and efficient ways of reaching students and protecting them from the flu,” said Erica Pan, MD, MPH, Director of the Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at Alameda County Public Health Department. “As a parent and a pediatrician, it is so rewarding to provide a service that is convenient for parents and guardians, safe, free to students and staff, and improves the overall health of the community.”

Flu Vaccine Days:

- Flu Vaccine Days start in October through early November and are primarily at elementary and K-8 schools this year. It’s the same flu vaccine your student would get from your regular healthcare provider, nurses or supervised nursing students will give the vaccine to all students with completed consent forms, and the whole process takes place during school hours.
- 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.
- In addition to all OUSD elementary schools, Flu Vaccine Days will be held at private schools, charter schools and schools of the Catholic Archdiocese of Oakland.
- 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 your healthcare provider to see, and paper documentation will also be given to your student.

“Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors’ visits, and missed work and school, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations,” said Cheryl Burden, program manager of OUSD Nursing Services. “The more people who get vaccinated, the more people will be protected from the flu, including older people, very young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious flu complications. People can also protect themselves by covering coughs with their shoulder or sleeve (not their hands), washing hands frequently and staying home when sick.”

This fall, Shoo the Flu will have the CDC-recommended injectable vaccines for Oakland schools. These inactivated influenza vaccines are licensed for many age groups, including elementary-aged students, and they are all “shots”. The nasal spray flu vaccine (live attenuated influenza vaccine or LAIV) is not recommended for use during the 2016-2017 flu season. This means Shoo the Flu and healthcare providers will only have flu shots this fall, and those shots currently provide the best protection available.

California’s new Vaccine Law (SB277), which took effect on Jan. 1, 2016, is aligned with the goals of the Shoo the Flu program which includes keeping kids healthy in a school setting. Although the flu vaccine is not a required vaccination for school attendance, it’s best to be protected before influenza begins spreading in the community.

Follow Shoo the Flu (@ShooTheFlu) on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Google+](#).

About the Flu

The flu, also called influenza, is a contagious disease that spreads by coughing, sneezing and close contact. 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 most people over six months old. 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, Kaiser-Permanente and Sutter Health.

About Oakland Unified School District

The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) is the State of California’s most improved urban school district over the past eight years, as measured by Academic Performance Index (API), California’s primary metric for measuring student achievement. During this time, the District’s 46,000 students have benefited from 128 points of API growth and a focus on the whole child embodied by OUSD’s “Community Schools, Thriving Students” vision of a full-service community school district. In this model, every school site offers high levels of learning along with physical health, mental health, dental and eye care; nutrition, physical education, recreation, before-school and afterschool programs; housing, employment, parenting and language acquisition courses and a range of other programs. Social and human services are not seen as extra or add-ons in these schools. Instead, collaboration in service of children and families is how they consistently behave. To learn more about “Community Schools, Thriving Students”, please visit: www.thrivingstudents.org.

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

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.

Media Contact

Sherri Willis

Sherri.Willis@acgov.org

510-267-8001