



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

PO BOX 360

TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

JON S. CORZINE  
Governor

FRED M. JACOBS, M.D., J.D.  
Commissioner

September 2006

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2006-2007 influenza (flu) immunization campaign. This comprehensive vaccination campaign is an effort to raise awareness of influenza and to protect New Jersey's children through influenza vaccination. The flu is not just a "bad cold." It is a serious disease that causes over 114,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths each year.

Flu vaccinations are no longer just for senior citizens. Very young children are also at greater risk of serious illness that may result in hospitalization from the flu. This year in addition to recommending influenza vaccination for unvaccinated children 6 months to < 9 years of age, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are recommending influenza vaccination for children ages 24-59 months of age, their household contacts, and out-of-home caregivers as well. Because of these recommendations, many children, family members, and out-of-home caregivers will be vaccinated during this year's flu season. Parents/guardians of uninsured children can call 1-800-701-0710 or visit [www.njfamilycare.org](http://www.njfamilycare.org) to apply for NJ FamilyCare. NJFamilyCare can provide a comprehensive regular source of care free or at low cost. Children with a medical home are more likely to receive flu vaccine on time.

As part of this campaign, educational materials for parents/guardians are available at the NJDHSS Communicable Disease Service website at [www.nj.gov/flu](http://www.nj.gov/flu). Information on how to find flu shot clinics in your area is also available at this website. Contact your health care provider early to set up an appointment to get a flu vaccine for your child.

Join us in our efforts to reduce the impact that the flu has on New Jersey's children. Make vaccination a family affair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddy A. Bresnitz".

Eddy A. Bresnitz, M.D., M.S.  
Deputy Commissioner/State Epidemiologist  
Public Health Services