



# Regional School Unit No. 18

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**Gary N. Smith**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Carl Gartley**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Bobbi Avery**  
Chief Operations Officer

September 2, 2016

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

Regional School Unit 18 will be partnering with MaineGeneral Medical Center again this year to hold flu vaccination clinics in our Schools. The clinics will be held at Atwood Primary School, Belgrade Central School, China Primary School, James H. Bean School, Messalonskee Middle School and Williams Elementary School. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend flu vaccinations for all children age 6 months and older. The 2016-17 vaccine provides protection against A/H1N1 (pandemic) influenza and three other influenza viruses– influenza A/H3N2, influenza B, and B/Phuket. It will not prevent illness caused by other viruses. The vaccination is available as a shot. ***There will be no nasal option this year.*** There is no charge for the vaccinations that your child receives at school.

MaineGeneral has prepared a *Health Screen & Permission Form* and *Vaccine Information Statement* that all parents must review before the clinics are held, and those documents are attached to this letter. They are also posted on our District Web site: [http://www.rsu18.org/index.php?id=2&sub\\_id=6904](http://www.rsu18.org/index.php?id=2&sub_id=6904). Parents/ guardians should keep the *Vaccine Information Statement* for their records. Parents/ guardians should sign the *Health Screen & Permission Form* and return it to their child's school. Students will receive an immunization record card to take home for their records.

***About Boosters ... shot:***

- If your child is younger than 9 years of age and has never had the flu vaccine, your child should have two (2) doses this season, given at least four weeks apart.
- If your child had a total of two (2) doses since July 1, 2010, your child will only need one (1) dose this season.
- If your child needs two doses of vaccine, check with your child's health care provider about getting the second dose.

Last year, about 30% of the students in Central Maine received flu vaccinations. You may remember that many children and adults were sick with the flu in December, January and February. We encourage you to have your child vaccinated this year, to protect your child, your family and members of your community who cannot be vaccinated for health reasons.

Clinic dates and locations are listed below. You will be notified of any changes in this schedule through our School Messenger Phone Alert system.

**Please see other side.**

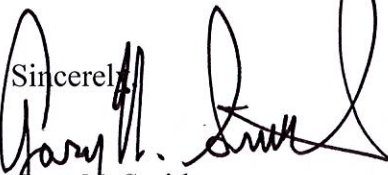
"Proudly serving the children in the Belgrade and China Lakes Regions."  
Belgrade - China - Oakland - Rome - Sidney

**RSU 18**  
**2016 Flu Clinics**

<u><i>Flu Clinics</i></u> <u><i>2016</i></u>	<u><i>Students</i></u>	<u><i>Locations</i></u>	<u><i>Start Times</i></u>
October 5	<i>Grades PK-2 students from Atwood Primary School</i>	Atwood Primary School Library (ATW)	8:30 a.m.
October 5	<i>Grades 3-5 students from Williams Elementary School</i>	Williams Elementary School Gymnasium (WES)	Immediately following Atwood School Clinic
October 26	<i>Grades PK-5 students from Belgrade Central School</i>	Belgrade Central School Gymnasium (BCS)	8:45 a.m.
October 26	<i>Grades PK-5 students from James H. Bean School</i>	James H. Bean School Gymnasium (JHB)	Immediately following Belgrade Central School Clinic
November 2	<i>Grades PK-8 students from China Primary School &amp; China Middle School</i>	China Primary School Gymnasium (CPS)	8:45 a.m.
November 9	<i>Grades 6-12 students from Messalonskee Middle School &amp; Messalonskee High School</i>	Messalonskee Middle School Gymnasium (MMS)	8:30 a.m.

In conclusion, we would also like to remind you to review with your child what proper respiratory hygiene includes, teach your child to wash his/her hands often, and to not share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils. Finally, please keep your children home when they are sick. Thank you for your help regarding improving our communities' overall public health.

If you would like your child to receive the vaccination, please complete the enclosed *Health Screen & Permission Form* **and return it to your child's school by September 26, 2016.** If you have questions, please contact your school nurse.

Sincerely,  
  
 Gary N. Smith  
 Superintendent of Schools

GNS/mg  
 Enclosures

Flu Information/2016-17/Parent Letter – 09-02-16

**Tips for Staying Healthy**

- **Wash your hands!**
- **Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow and not your hands!**
- **Stay home if you're sick!**
- **Get vaccinated!**

**Together we can keep our community healthy!**