

Gilmer County Health Department
28 Southside Church Street
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-635-4363

January 7, 2019

Dr. Downs,

We would like to discuss the potential partnership between Gilmer Health Department and Gilmer Board of Education regarding the Georgia School Based Flu Program. Our surrounding counties provide students with flu vaccine on site and we would like the children of Gilmer County to have the same opportunity. Please see the information below from the state immunization program.

School Based Flu Program (SBFP)

The Georgia SBFP is a Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) initiative in partnership with the Georgia Department of Education (DOE). Georgia's SBFP's mission is to prevent and control seasonal influenza by providing influenza immunization to school-aged children in a school-based setting within Georgia. Georgia's SBFP goal is through an evidence-based, sustainable school-based flu program, significantly reduce seasonal influenza in schools and subsequently increase academic performance associated with reduced school absenteeism related to seasonal influenza. The DPH sees this program to be especially valuable to those children whose parents are unable to take their children to receive flu immunizations at a "medical home."

If Gilmer Board of Education would like to enter into this partnership, we would like to start with one pilot school during the 2020/2021 school year. If this is a success, we could expand to other schools in the years that follow. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Krystal Sumner, RN BSN
County Nurse Manager, Gilmer Health Department