

# Let's fight flu together!



## THE FACTS: Impact of the Flu on ... Families, Schools and the Community

### FAMILY

- \* Influenza attacks children more frequently than any other age group
- \* Children are at higher risk for complications (ear infections, sinus infections, and pneumonia), medical visits, antibiotic use, and hospitalizations than any other age group
  - \* Children are a major source of flu transmission
- \* In an average year, students miss approximately 38 million days of school due to influenza and parents miss more than 10 million work days to care for these children
- \* During the 2007-2008 flu season, 83 children died from influenza-related diseases

### SCHOOL

- \* In addition to student absenteeism, school faculty and staff are at risk of getting the flu, due to their close contact with children
- \* The flu virus can live for several hours on the surface of desks, chairs, doorknobs, computer keyboards, cafeteria trays, pencils, and other hard surfaces
- \* People infected with the flu virus are contagious before they experience symptoms

### COMMUNITY

- \* Each year in the United States, between 5% and 20% of the population gets the flu and miss approximately 70 million days of work as a result
- \* The indirect costs of these missed workdays is between \$3 billion and \$12 billion each year
- \* In an average year, 200,000 people are hospitalized and 36,000 people die in the United States due to flu-related illness
- \* In communities with mass vaccination programs at schools and other community settings, studies have shown reductions in influenza related symptoms, medical visits among household contacts, and school absences related to the flu demonstrating the importance of reducing flu transmission among children through preventative vaccinations