

Protecting Alachua County from Flu

A proposal to protect Alachua County's citizens long term from the flu through the award-winning School-Located Influenza Vaccination Program, which has been recognized as the nation's best.



History: Alachua County's SLIV program has been implemented in local public and private schools for the last three years and has achieved great success. The Centers for Disease Control and the American Medical Association selected the Alachua County program as the best in the nation for 2011. One of the founders of the program, Dr. Parker Small, has also been named the CDC's first-ever Children's Immunization Champion primarily as a result of the success of the program.

Request: The Control Flu coalition in Alachua County is requesting \$3 million from existing CHOICES funds to establish an irrevocable trust fund for the Alachua County School-Located Influenza Vaccination program (SLIV) for at least 30 years, at \$100,000 annually. The expenditure of these funds is to support influenza immunization of Alachua County school children, as determined jointly by the Administrator/Director of the Alachua County Health Department and the Director of the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute. These administrators/directors can use the funds to protect Alachua County residents against a disease other than influenza if they conclude that exceptional harm will occur absent the use of such program funds, such as the chickenpox outbreak in children in Alachua, or the whooping cough outbreak in adults in the Northwest.

Should immunization technology create an environment where these funds are no longer needed for school located influenza vaccination, the trust can be broken, and the funds used for other vaccine preventable disease programs.

Current Funding: CHOICES has provided \$80,000 per year for three years. This is the primary source of financial support for running the program and administering the vaccine. The vaccine has been provided by the Health Department.

Results: The UF Emerging Pathogens Institute is currently evaluating the overall impact of the SLIV program across multiple years. However, anecdotal data from local physicians and school absentee data suggest a major reduction in flu illness in both children and adults, due to the immunization of about 65% of elementary, 50% of middle and just under 20% of high school students. (Efforts to raise those rates are ongoing.) Initial figures on flu in our schools are very exciting (see attached), but much additional work is required to compare Alachua with other counties, and to extend the analysis to the impact on adults.

Potential Cost Savings: During an average season, flu results in about 100 hospitalizations and 30 deaths in Alachua County. During the worst year (2003-04), there were actually 40 deaths and 125 hospitalizations due to flu (see attached).

It's conservatively estimated that direct costs, such as hospital care, and indirect costs, such as lost work days, amount to about \$10 million a year on average in Alachua County (assuming no SLIV in place).

Broader Implications: Long-term funding of the SLIV program will cement Alachua County's role as a national leader in the prevention of influenza, providing a model for other counties and states.

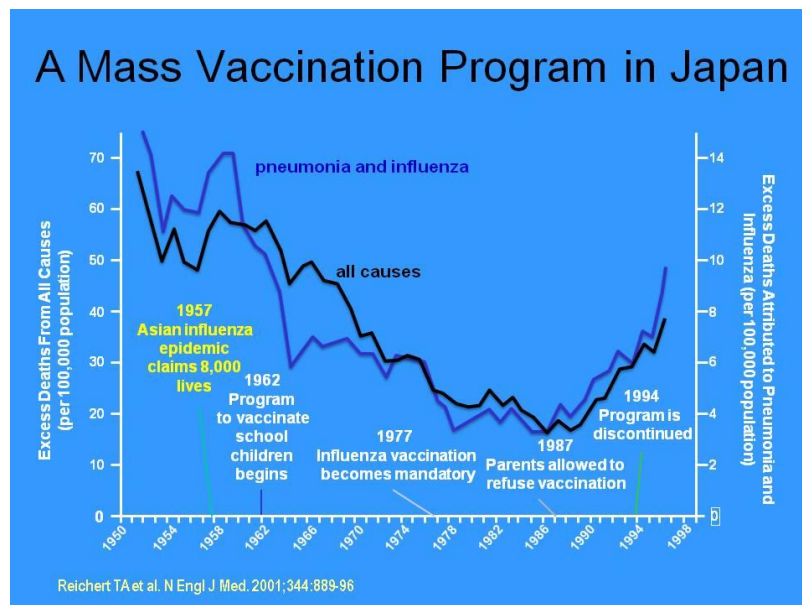
The program will also provide additional proof of Alachua County's unique and innovative nature, and its commitment to public health - and its children - important factors as businesses and individuals consider locating in the area.

TABLE 1: IMPACT OF FLU ON ALACHUA COUNTY IN THE “LEAST BAD”, AVERAGE, AND “WORST YEAR”^{1,2}

		Deaths	Hospitalization	Illness	Direct Costs	Indirect Costs
“Least Bad” Year	<u>1986/87</u>	~3	~10	~2,800	~\$0.2 M	~\$0.8 M
Average		~30	~100	~28,000	~\$2 M	~\$8 M
Worst Year	<u>2003/04</u>	~40	~125	~35,000	~\$2.5 M	~\$10 M

IMMUNIZING CHILDREN PROTECTS EVERYONE!

In Japan a universal school located flu immunization program decreased deaths due to “influenza and pneumonia” and to “all causes” to half! When the program was discontinued the rates went back up. One life was saved for every 420 children immunized³.



A recent study from Canada showed similar results⁴. Both studies used shots; **however the nasal spray, FluMist, should be more effective at protecting children⁵ and their community.** Another study calculated that immunizing 20% of children protects the elderly more effectively than immunizing 90% of the elderly⁶.



FIGURE 1: FLU LIKE ILLNESS IN ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

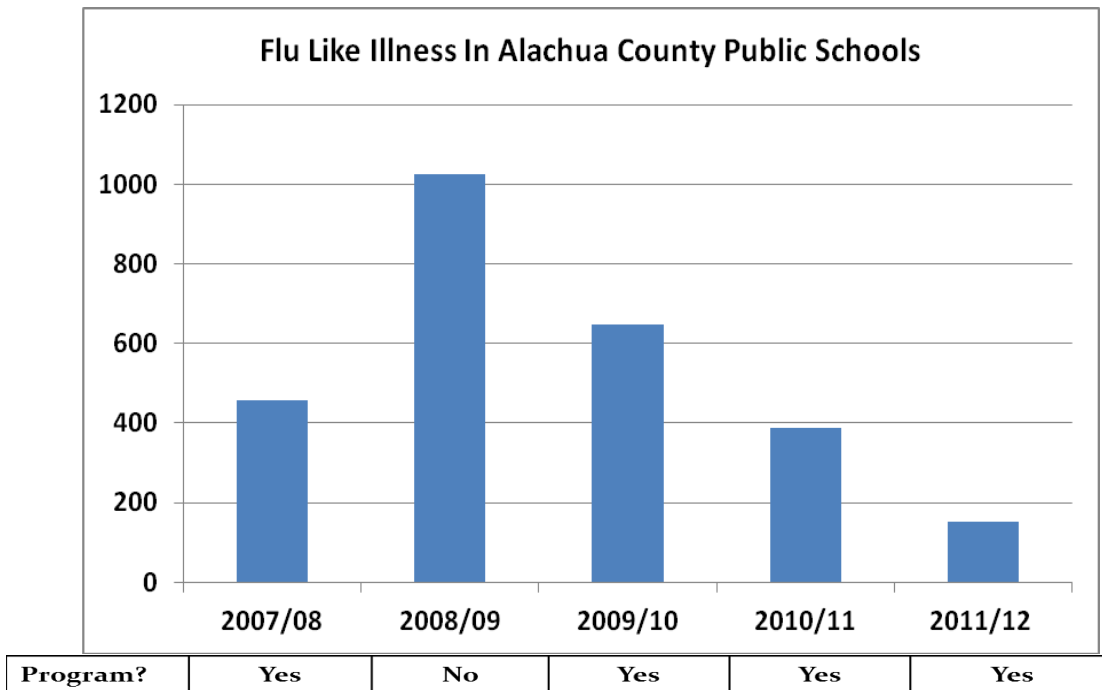


TABLE 2: ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOL-LOCATED IMMUNIZATION RATES

	8 States Combined Weighted Average ⁺	Alachua County					
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Elementary	16.3%	27%	X	X	50%	48%	45%
Middle	12.7%	24%	X	X	34%	36%	41%
High	9.1%	X	X	X	X	16%	17%
Pvt. Physicians	---	---	---	---	10-15%	10-15%	10-15%
Overall Elementary	16.3%	27%	X	X	60-65%	58-63%	55-60%

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