

Surveillance, Monitoring Absenteeism And Respiratory Transmission in Schools (SMART²) Project

DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

PURPOSE: The purpose of this research is to figure out how influenza and other respiratory diseases are spread in schools and from schools out into the community. This will provide a firm base of scientific data for school policy and practice in response to communicable disease outbreaks.

WHO IS DOING THIS RESEARCH: SMART Schools is being conducted by the University of Florida (Florida), Johns Hopkins University (Hopkins) and University of Pittsburgh (Pitt), School of Medicine. Florida has received a grant from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from which Pitt receives funding. The research is under the direction of Derek Cummings PhD MHS MS (Florida) and Kenneth Smith MD (Pitt). Canon-McMillan and Fox Chapel school districts have agreed to participate.

WHAT IS BEING DONE: An important part of this project is to figure the level of disease in schools and its contribution to absenteeism.

1. Your school will provide absence data to SMART. This is considered identifiable information from your student's education record.
2. Parents of absent students will be contacted by phone or email during flu season (October 2016-May, 2017) to determine if their student has flu-like symptoms. You will be asked if your student was ill, and what symptoms they have.
3. Students with the symptoms of flu may be tested for the flu. This involves taking a simple nasal swab.
4. Parents may be asked if their children have had flu vaccine.
5. Parents may be contacted to join a family study of influenza like illness. This will have a separate consent.

It is thought that influenza may first appear in schoolchildren before it appears in the community. This research will be used to create models of flu transmission. These models would be used to create policies and recommendations for the response to flu and other similar diseases.

All of this will be done confidentially. Students will be assigned code numbers. All information will be kept on secured computers. Paper forms will be kept in locked cabinets in locked rooms.

COSTS/BENEFITS: There is no cost to anyone for participating in this study. There are no direct benefits to students.



There may be some benefit to the schools. The investigators will provide science education, if desired, on:

- Research on influenza, including their previous work
- Disease transmission
- Vaccines
- Research process.

Some of the data collected could be shared anonymously to illustrate the research and analysis process.

Findings of this study will be shared with the schools. It will provide a firm basis for school policy and practice in response to communicable disease outbreaks. It will help form national policy.

An iPad drawing will be held at each school for all students who participate in this study. The odds of winning are ~1 in 300.

RISKS: There is minimal risk involved with this study. All records are confidential. The children will be assigned numbers for control purposes. All data will be analyzed anonymously. All data will be kept on secure computers. Paper forms will be kept in locked cabinets in locked rooms. Flu testing involves taking a small sample of mucus from the nose. There may be some discomfort associated with this, but the discomfort is momentary.

PARTICIPATION: Participation is voluntary. You have the right to opt-out. There is no penalty for not participating. Not participating will not affect your child's normal privileges and activities in school. Educational activities are open to all students, regardless of participation.

QUESTIONS: There are numerous people who are available to answer your questions.

1. Please contact Project Manager Chuck Vukotich at 412-246-6957 or charlesv@pitt.edu with your questions about SMART Schools.
2. If you have any questions or concerns about participating in research, please contact Human Subject Protection Advocate of the University of Pittsburgh Institutional Review Board at 1-866-212-2668.
3. if you would like to contact the funder of this research, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, contact Yenlik Zheteyeva, MD MPH, Project Officer 404-639-4790.

