

The following letter, consent form, and flu vaccine information was developed by the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH). At the request of DPH, all schools are being used as sites for the state's School Immunization Program. Schools were asked to send this communication on Monday, October 19, 2009. School vaccination clinics will be scheduled by DPH between November and January. We will inform you by an **Alert Now** message as soon as we are given a date for the vaccinations to take place in our school.

October 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware, 2009 H1N1 influenza infections continue to occur in Delaware and across the country. School-age children have been identified as a high risk group due to the large number of children in this age group who are getting sick. Vaccinating children at school is one way to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive the vaccine. In this way, your child and the school community is more protected from spread of the disease.

We recognize the need for the school-aged children to be vaccinated against the H1N1 flu virus and our district has agreed to participate in Delaware's School Vaccination Program. **This is a voluntary program. Therefore parent/guardian consent is required. No child will be vaccinated without written parent/guardian consent.** (A consent form is attached for you to return.)

Some important things for you to know:

- The program is voluntary for students.
- The vaccine is free.
- Vaccinations will be provided during the school day to cause the least amount of disruption.
- Students will receive a 2009 H1N1 flu shot and will only require one dose.
- Students with certain health risk factors may be unable to receive the vaccine at school and will be referred to their private provider for immunization.
- Your School Nurse will serve a key role as school coordinator and liaison to the vaccinating team.

Enclosed are materials from the Division of Public Health:

- 2009 H1N1 Vaccine Information Statement – This includes important information about the vaccine for your review.
- **Consent Form – This needs to be reviewed, fully completed, signed and returned to the school by Friday, October 23, 2009.** No child will be vaccinated without written consent. Please return the completed signed form even if you do not want your child to be vaccinated.

Completed consent forms will be collected from students in homeroom. Forms may also be faxed directly to the school at 302-376-8926 or delivered to the main office. According to state deadlines, FORMS MUST BE RETURNED by FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 in order to participate in the free vaccine program. **Late forms cannot be accepted.** Forms that are returned but are not completed in full, signed, and dated cannot be processed.

For questions about 2009 H1N1 disease or the vaccine, visit www.flu.delaware.gov or call the Division of Public Health at 1-800-282-8672. If you have specific questions regarding the vaccine as it relates to *your* child, you should consult with your doctor and not the school nurse.

We will send a reminder flyer home with your child a few days before the vaccination clinic at your school. You may withdraw your consent at any time up to the vaccination clinic date by contacting the school nurse.

Thank you,



Principal