

Dear Parents/Guardians,

October 2009

A new influenza (flu) virus called 2009 H1N1 was first seen in Wisconsin last spring, and is still making people sick this fall. The illness people get from this virus can be mild to severe. It has caused hospitalization and death in children and adults. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this possibly serious disease. If you can, get the vaccine from your doctor.

Public Health - Madison & Dane County will be at your child's school soon to give children the vaccine for this flu virus. Here is information about the vaccine clinic that will be at your child's school.

With this letter you will find:

- **Consent form:** *Read and answer all the questions.*
 - **Check the box that tells us if you do or do not want your child to get the vaccine.** We only will immunize a child whose form is returned, has the Yes box checked, and is signed by the parent or legal guardian.
 - **Sign the form.**
 - Then return it to your child's school *as soon as possible.*
- **"What you need to know" information sheets about the vaccine.** *Please read.* There are 2 of these, one for the nose spray vaccine and one for the injectable vaccine. Your answers to the questions on the consent form will help us know which type of vaccine to give your child.
- **Public Health's Privacy Statement.** *Please read.*

Children under 10 years old will need a second dose of this vaccine. You will get a second consent form before we return to your child's school, about a month after the first vaccine.

To help your child be ready for the vaccine:

- Talk with your child about the vaccine. Tell him or her it is simple and quick and much easier than being sick with the flu.
- Be sure your child eats breakfast the day of the clinic. Children do better if they have had breakfast.
- Your child should not wear tight sleeves to school the day of the clinic so that we can get to his or her upper arm.

The day of the clinic:

- Your child will have privacy and confidentiality at the school clinic.
- Children who have been vaccinated will have a temporary ink stamp on their upper arm.
- Even with consent, we sometimes cannot immunize a child. We will do everything we can to calm your child's fears, and hold him or her gently but securely to safely provide the vaccine. If we are unsuccessful, we will send home a note with your child letting you know about other places you can get the vaccine.
- We will monitor children for 15 minutes after the vaccine to be sure they feel okay.

Please check our website for information about the flu and ideas about how to keep you and your family healthy: www.publichealthmdc.com/H1N1news. Call Public Health Madison & Dane County's Flu Line at 243-0555 with questions or concerns. Thank you.

Public Health Madison & Dane County