



H1N1 Flu Information



October 28, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may have heard, a new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many children have been infected with the 2009 H1N1 virus and there have been absences related to the H1N1 virus in some schools across the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available. Other groups recommended to get the first available doses of the vaccine include:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services workers, and
- People ages 25 through 64 years who have certain health conditions such as HIV, diabetes, or heart or lung disease.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious virus. The Osceola County Health Department is working with Osceola District Schools to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children. We will hold vaccination clinics at several different schools throughout the county during evening hours. Your child's school will let you know the specific school in your area along with the times and dates once the vaccine is available. Shortly, you will receive a packet from the school which will include more information about the virus and about the vaccine.

Children 9 years and under are expected to need two doses of the vaccine spaced about 3 weeks apart. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or about the H1N1 virus please call the Florida Flu Information Line at (877) 352-3581. Please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>, or www.myflusafety.com, and also <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> for information especially for parents. Your child's health care provider can also answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and may be able to give your child the 2009 H1N1 vaccine once it becomes available.

Sincerely,

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