

LENAWEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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October 8, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you may have heard, a new influenza virus called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus was first identified in the U.S. 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 gotten the 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been large outbreaks in some schools across the country.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices 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 six (6) months of age,
- Health care and emergency medical services workers, and
- People ages 25 through 64 years, who have certain health care conditions such as HIV, diabetes, or heart or lung disease.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. The Lenawee County Health Department (LCHD) is working with your child's school to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at school. The LCHD will hold vaccination clinics in the schools in October, November and December, 2009. Your child's school will let you know the specific date. On that date, please have your child dressed in a short-sleeved shirt. Children under ten (10) years old might need two (2) doses of vaccine spaced about four (4) weeks apart. There will be NO cost to you for this vaccine and participation is **VOLUNTARY**.

If you would like your child vaccinated at school, please tear off and complete:

- **the Flu Vaccine Consent Form**
- **the MCIR Seasonal Flu/H1N1 Scan Form - Personal Information Section ONLY**

and return these forms to your school building secretary. If you do NOT wish to have your child vaccinated at school, please sign the refusal section on the consent form and return to your child's school.

If you have any questions, please call (517) 264-5215 or email h1n1lenawee@hline.org.

Please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and also <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> for information especially for parents. Your child's health care provider can also answer questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and may be able to give your child the H1N1 vaccine.

Sincerely,

Michael Kight, R.S., M.S.
Health Officer