

HOPEWELL-LOUDON SCHOOLS

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October 27, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This information is being shared in conjunction with the Seneca County General Health District.

As you are aware, a new influenza virus, 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 contracted the 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been large outbreaks in some schools across the country.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (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 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services workers

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. The Seneca County General Health Department is working with our district to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at school. We will hold vaccination clinics this fall, and you will be notified of the specific dates once vaccine is on hand. You will also receive a form that will include options allowing you to either accept or refuse the vaccination for your child. If you refuse, the vaccination will not be given to your child. This permission form will also be posted on the school website at www.hlschool.org.

Children ages 6 months to 10 years will need two doses of vaccine spaced about 3 weeks apart. A follow-up clinic will be held at school also. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call the Seneca County Health Department at 419-447-3691, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, please visit these websites:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- www.senecahealthdept.org

Your child's health care provider can also answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.

Sincerely,

Geoff Palmer
Superintendent