

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Vaccination is the single most effective way to prevent influenza, or the flu. Because a novel influenza virus, 2009 H1N1 Influenza (formerly called swine flu), began to circulate this year after the seasonal flu vaccine was in production, a second vaccine had to be produced. Both vaccines, the seasonal flu vaccine and the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine, are recommended this year. The seasonal flu vaccine is already available, and we encourage you to have your child vaccinated as soon as possible.

The 2009 H1N1 flu virus is currently circulating in our community. To make the vaccine as available to as many people as possible as quickly as possible, **our school is partnering with the health department to offer school-based 2009 H1N1 flu vaccination clinics for students.** We will offer the clinics as soon as the vaccine is available and expect this to be between October 19 and November 6.

- Vaccination will be voluntary. **No child will receive the H1N1 flu vaccine for whom we do not have a signed consent form from the parent or guardian.**
- There is **no cost** for your child to receive the H1N1 flu vaccine at school.
- One dose of vaccine is required for children age ten and older, but two doses are recommended for children age nine and younger. The second dose is required four weeks after the first. We will schedule follow-up clinics for the second dose.
- If a child with permission to be vaccinated does not cooperate, we will not force him or her to receive the vaccine. We will inform you so you can make vaccination arrangements with a private provider.
- Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate family members. If you feel that you need to be with your child during vaccination, please make other arrangements with either your personal health care provider or the local health department.

We expect the vaccine to also be available through many private providers. We encourage you to look into other options as well and find the best arrangement for your child. If your child has asthma, diabetes, heart disease, chronic lung disease, metabolic conditions, neurologic and neuromuscular disorders, or is pregnant, we encourage you to call his/her doctor to see if your child can get the 2009 H1N1 vaccine any earlier through the doctor's office.

Enclosed is a vaccine consent form. **If you wish for your child to receive the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine at school, please read, sign and return the enclosed form to your child's homeroom teacher by October 13, 2009 .** If you do not return the form, the vaccine will not be given to your child.

Please call **434-985-2262** with any questions. For more information about the 2009 H1N1 flu, go to [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu).

Sincerely,

Greene County Public Schools