



OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING LEVEL 4
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September 29, 2009

Dear School Parents,

We have several important updates to share with you regarding the H1N1 Influenza pandemic:

VACCINE:

- A vaccine to prevent H1N1 influenza has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. It has been found to be safe and effective.
- Influenza vaccination is the most effective method for preventing influenza and influenza-related complications. H1N1 is a new virus first identified in April, 2009. Because it is a new influenza virus strain, the current seasonal influenza vaccine does not provide protection against H1N1. A specific vaccine against this new virus needed to be manufactured.
- The H1N1 vaccine is made using the same processes as seasonal flu vaccine. It is expected to have a similar safety profile as seasonal flu vaccines, which have a very good safety track record.
- The vaccine is voluntary, and will be provided by Outagamie County Public Health free of charge.
- Accurate and up-to-date information about the H1N1 vaccine can be obtained at:
www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination.

H1N1 AND SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN:

- Children ages 6 months-18 years are a priority group for receiving the vaccine.
- Children have had much higher rates of H1N1 infection and hospitalization than the general population.
- Outagamie County Public Health staff is working with your school officials to offer the vaccine through school-based clinics. Specific dates and locations have not been determined yet, but we are considering a variety of options including daytime, evening and weekend clinics. This will be determined in part by vaccine availability and shipment timelines which are set by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. You will receive more information when clinic details are firm.
- Vaccine information sheets and consent forms will be sent to you as soon as we receive them from the Centers for Disease Control and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to protect your child against H1N1 influenza. Please visit www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov, or call our office for more information.

Sincerely,

Melody Bockenfeld MPH, BSN
Public Health Officer

