

ALAMANCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Human Services Center, Suite B
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Burlington, North Carolina 27217-2971
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Joseph B. Bass, Jr., MSW
Health Director

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 gotten 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 doses of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine are:

- 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 disease. The Alamance County Health Department is working with Clover Garden School to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at school. We will hold vaccination clinics beginning this fall, and your child's school will let you know the specific dates once vaccine is on hand. Children are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced about 3 weeks apart. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.

The vaccine consent form includes 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.

To accept, you can read the "What you need to know" form included with this letter about the disease and the vaccine. You must then sign and date the included consent form to accept vaccination for your child and return it to the school. If you accept vaccination, the vaccine will be given to your child when it is on hand. School staff will let you know when the vaccination clinic will take place about 2 weeks before. If, at any time, you change your mind about having your child vaccinated, you can notify the school. Giving consent early will ensure that your child is ready to receive the vaccine as soon as it is on hand..

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call 336-570-6367 ext 319. Please visit the Alamance County Influenza website at www.alamanceflu.com and the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> for more information especially for parents. Your child's health care provider also can answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and will be able to give your child the seasonal influenza vaccine and may be able to give your child the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

Sincerely,

Shannon Alley
Preparedness Coordinator,
Alamance County Health Department



COMMITTED TO PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE
PUBLIC'S HEALTH IN ALAMANCE COUNTY

