



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Dayton &
Montgomery
County**

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October 1, 2009

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. Many children have been infected with the 2009 H1N1 virus and there have been large outbreaks in some schools across the country. We expect a steady increase in the number of children in school districts throughout Montgomery County who contract the 2009 H1N1 virus in the coming months. 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 the 2009 H1N1 virus as soon as a vaccine is available. Other groups recommended to receive the first doses of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine are:

- o Pregnant women
- o People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- o Health care and emergency medical services workers, and
- o 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. Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County is working with your child's 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 9 years of age and younger are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced about 3-4 weeks apart. Children 10 years of age and older will only need one dose. Vaccinations will be provided free of charge.

Included with this letter is a Vaccine Information Statement containing information about the vaccine. Please read this information carefully. If you wish for your child to receive the vaccine at the school vaccination clinic please fill out the vaccine consent form. By filling out the vaccine consent form you are giving your permission for your child to receive H1N1 vaccine at the school vaccination clinic. Please return the consent form to your child's school as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call the Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County Hotline at 224-8796 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Please visit our website at www.phdmc.org for additional information. Your child's health care provider can also answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and vaccine.

Sincerely,

James W. Gross, M.P.H.
Health Commissioner