

"To improve the health of our communities by identifying sustainable solutions to community health issues, developing partnerships for implementation of strategies, and demonstrating our success through measurement of outcomes."

December 17, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The influenza virus called "H1N1 flu" or "Swine flu" is circulating in the United States. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Central District Health Department (CDHD) recommends that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against H1N1 influenza virus. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease.

CDHD is working with your child's school to make the H1N1 influenza vaccine available to children at school. **This vaccine is free and is optional.** As supplies allow, we will be administering nasal spray vaccine for all children except for those who have recently received the seasonal influenza nasal spray vaccine or have certain medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes. Section 5 of the enclosed Nasal Spray Vaccine Information Statement lists conditions that exclude children from getting this vaccine. Children who cannot receive the nasal spray vaccine can receive the flu shot. We may not have enough nasal spray vaccine to cover every child who is eligible to receive it. If we run out of nasal spray vaccine, your child will receive the flu shot. If you do not wish for your child to receive a flu shot, please indicate "nasal spray only" on his or her consent form recognizing that if we are out of nasal spray they will not be vaccinated at school.

If you have other children who are not yet school-aged or are home schooled, you may bring them in to your child's school on the scheduled day to receive their H1N1 vaccine. Consent/screening forms will be made available on-site.

If your child is not available to get the vaccine the day of his or her school clinic, he or she can still get the **free** vaccine from one of the Central District Health Department public vaccination clinics. Please visit our website at www.cdhd.idaho.gov or call our H1N1 hotline at 321-2222 for clinic dates and locations.

In addition, children under 10 years of age need two doses of vaccine spaced at least 4 weeks apart. We will be administering second doses at the school based clinics for those who are due. Please have your child bring the H1N1 vaccination card from their first dose to the school clinic, if possible.

Enclosed in this packet are the H1N1 Vaccine Information Statements and the Consent Form. **Please keep the Vaccine Information Statements for your records, and complete the Consent Form and return it to the school as soon as possible if you would like your child to be vaccinated.** If you completed a consent form for a school clinic that was canceled, this form is no longer valid and a new consent form will need to be completed. You will also need to complete this consent form if your child is due for a second dose of vaccine and you wish for

him or her to be vaccinated. **If your child does not present a current consent form at the time of the clinic, your child will not be vaccinated at the school clinic.**

Below is a schedule of vaccination dates for the Meridian School District; this schedule is subject to change based on vaccine availability. If AM/PM is not designated, clinic will start in the morning and run until all consented students have been vaccinated.

Tuesday, January 12

Mountain View High School
AM: Central Academy
PM: Crossroads Middle School
Meridian Academy
Meridian Elementary

Thursday, January 28

AM: Joplin Elementary
Pioneer Elementary
Andrus Elementary
PM: Eagle Hills Elementary
Summerwind Elementary

Thursday, January 14

AM: Lake Hazel Middle School
Lewis & Clark Middle School
Eagle Academy
Renaissance High School
PM: Linder Elementary
Frontier Elementary

Tuesday, February 2

AM: Star Elementary
Donnell K-8
Spalding Elementary
PM: Prospect Elementary
Seven Oaks Elementary
Silver Sage Elementary

Tuesday, January 26

AM: McMillan Elementary
Galileo K-8
PM: Ustick Elementary
Eagle Elementary
River Valley Elementary

Any updates will be posted on our website at www.cdhd.idaho.gov. You may obtain additional information about the H1N1 virus and vaccine on our website or you may call our hotline at 321-2222 weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Sincerely,



Cindy Trail, Deputy Director
Central District Health Department

Enclosures