



MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

An Accredited Local Public Health Department

www.mmdhd.org

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August 25, 2009

Dear Parent:

Re: 2009 Novel Influenza A (H1N1 Influenza)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) anticipates there will be an increase in novel 2009 Influenza A this fall. The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is working in partnership with the Michigan Department of Community Health and local health care providers to assure a coordinated and effective response.

The MMDHD is also working with school partners focusing on: 1) pre-vaccination and education strategy, and 2) vaccination strategy.

Pre-Vaccination and Education Strategy for Schools

- Teaching prevention measures, which include: washing hands often with soap and water - especially after you cough or sneeze; covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze (by sneezing into the elbow or a tissue), and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth (as germs are spread this way).
- Students and staff with influenza-like illness should remain at home at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100 degrees F or higher), or signs of fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications (i.e. Tylenol). Influenza-like illness symptoms include fever, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.

Vaccination Strategy to Control Influenza for Schools

- The 2009 novel Influenza A vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine. All children are encouraged to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine as soon as it is available.
- It is anticipated that local health departments will begin receiving shipments of the 2009 novel Influenza A vaccine in mid-October. The CDC's recommendations for the target groups who should receive the vaccine include:
 - ✓ Pregnant women
 - ✓ People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months
 - ✓ Health care and emergency services personnel

*Your Public Health Experts;
Connecting with the Community and Exceeding Expectations.*

Dear Parent
Page 2
August 25, 2009

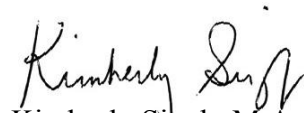
- ✓ All people 6 months through 24 years of age
- ✓ People ages 24 through 64 years with certain health conditions
- All students are encouraged to receive the 2009 novel Influenza A vaccine. When the vaccine is available the health department will coordinate with school officials to offer vaccination clinics for students. The vaccinations will be administered to those children who have a signed parental consent. While there will not be a charge for the vaccine, there may be a minimal charge for the administration of the shot. Consent forms will be sent out as soon as they are available. Persons receiving the vaccine need to have two doses (it is recommended that the second dose be given 21-28 days after the first dose).

School dismissals will be based on an unusually high number of student and/or teacher absences due to influenza-like illness that interferes with the school's ability to function. This approach is consistent with school dismissal recommendations for seasonal influenza. The MMDHD will consult with superintendents and principals to provide guidance and support as needed.

MMDHD will continue to review and update recommendations as new information becomes available from our state and local partners. For up-to-date information, please visit our website at www.mmdhd.org.

For more information on 2009 novel Influenza A, please call the MMDHD at 989/224-2195.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Singh, M.A.
Health Officer