

From The MCUSD #223 Health Services Department

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Attached you will find a permission sheet and information about the new H1N1 Novel Influenza vaccine. This vaccine will be available to ALL students in the Meridian school district – FREE OF CHARGE - on Friday, October 30. Children 9 years of age and younger who receive the vaccine will need a 2nd dose of the vaccine which will be given 3 weeks later on November 20. The October 30 vaccine clinic will be offered in all 4 buildings, by Ogle County Health Department teams, including our school nurses. The November 20 Clinic will only be offered at Monroe Center and Highland where students 9 years and under will be requiring the 2nd vaccination.

Younger siblings (6 months and older) and adults meeting priority criteria are also eligible to receive the vaccine on the day of the clinics. Times for the adult and sibling clinic will be communicated at a later date. Please make a copy of the permission form and complete one for each person receiving the vaccine and return it to your student's school as soon as possible – **no later than Monday October 26.**

A limited number of parent helpers in each building would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the School Nurse in the building in which you would be available to help AS SOON AS POSSIBLE as helpers will be taken on a first come first serve basis. Please feel free to call your student's school nurse if you have any further questions. Thank you!

Kim Glendenning, RN
Director of Health Services
Stillman Valley High School

Jessica Navejas, RN
Highland School Nurse

Renee Campa, RN and Connie Nyberg, RN
Monroe Center School Nurses

Dayle Burgess, RN
Meridian Jr. High School Nurse

2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINE

INACTIVATED (the "flu shot")

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis.

1 What is 2009 H1N1 influenza?

2009 H1N1 influenza (also called Swine Flu) is caused by a new strain of influenza virus. It has spread to many countries.

Like other flu viruses, 2009 H1N1 spreads from person to person through coughing, sneezing, and sometimes through touching objects contaminated with the virus.

Signs of 2009 H1N1 can include:

- Fatigue • Fever • Sore Throat • Muscle Aches
- Chills • Coughing • Sneezing

Some people also have diarrhea and vomiting.

Most people feel better within a week. But some people get pneumonia or other serious illnesses. Some people have to be hospitalized and some die.

2 How is 2009 H1N1 different from regular (seasonal) flu?

Seasonal flu viruses change from year to year, but they are closely related to each other.

People who have had flu infections in the past usually have some immunity to seasonal flu viruses (their bodies have built up some ability to fight off the viruses).

The 2009 H1N1 flu is a new flu virus. It is very different from seasonal flu viruses.

Most people have little or no immunity to 2009 H1N1 flu (their bodies are not prepared to fight off the virus).

3 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine

Vaccines are available to protect against 2009 H1N1 influenza.

- These vaccines are made just like seasonal flu vaccines.
- They are expected to be as safe and effective as seasonal flu vaccines.
- They will not prevent "influenza-like" illnesses caused by other viruses.
- They will not prevent seasonal flu. *You should also get seasonal influenza vaccine, if you want to be protected against seasonal flu.*

Inactivated vaccine (vaccine that has killed virus in it) is injected into the muscle, like the annual flu shot. **This sheet describes the inactivated vaccine.**

A **live, intranasal** vaccine (the nasal spray vaccine) is also available. It is described in a separate sheet.

Some inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine contains a preservative called thimerosal to keep it free from germs. Some people have suggested that thimerosal might be related to autism. In 2004 a group of experts at the Institute of Medicine reviewed many studies looking into this theory, and found no association between thimerosal and autism. Additional studies since then reached the same conclusion.

4 Who should get 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine and when?

WHO

Groups recommended to receive 2009 H1N1 vaccine first are:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical personnel
- Anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Anyone from 25 through 64 years of age with certain chronic medical conditions or a weakened immune system

As more vaccine becomes available, these groups should also be vaccinated:

- Healthy 25 through 64 year olds
- Adults 65 years and older

The Federal government is providing this vaccine for receipt on a voluntary basis. However, state law or employers may require vaccination for certain persons.

WHEN

Get vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available.

Children through 9 years of age should get **two doses** of vaccine, about a month apart. Older children and adults need only one dose.

5**Some people should not get the vaccine or should wait**

You should not get 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine if you have a **severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs**, or to **any other substance in the vaccine**. *Tell the person giving you the vaccine if you have any severe allergies.*

Also tell them if you have ever had:

- a life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of seasonal flu vaccine,
- Guillain Barré Syndrome (a severe paralytic illness also called GBS).

These may not be reasons to avoid the vaccine, but the medical staff can help you decide.

If you are moderately or severely ill, you might be advised to wait until you recover before getting the vaccine. If you have a mild cold or other illness, there is usually no need to wait.

Pregnant or breastfeeding women can get inactivated 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine.

Inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines, including seasonal influenza vaccine.

6**What are the risks from 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine?**

A vaccine, like any medicine, could cause a serious problem, such as a severe allergic reaction. But the risk of any vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

The virus in inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine has been killed, so you cannot get influenza from the vaccine.

The risks from inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine are similar to those from seasonal inactivated flu vaccine:

Mild problems:

- soreness, redness, tenderness, or swelling where the shot was given
- fainting (mainly adolescents)
- headache, muscle aches
- fever
- nausea

If these problems occur, they usually begin soon after the shot and last 1-2 days.

Severe problems:

- Life-threatening allergic reactions to vaccines are very rare. If they do occur, it is usually within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot.
- In 1976, an earlier type of swine flu vaccine was associated with cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS). Since then, flu vaccines have not been clearly linked to GBS.

7**What if there is a severe reaction?****What should I look for?**

Any unusual condition, such as a high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

What should I do?

- Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- Tell the doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
- Ask your provider to report the reaction by filing a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form. Or you can file this report through the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov, or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

VAERS does not provide medical advice.

8**Vaccine injury compensation**

If you or your child has a reaction to the vaccine, your ability to sue is limited by law.

However, a federal program has been created to help pay for the medical care and other specific expenses of certain persons who have a serious reaction to this vaccine. For more information about this program, call 1-888-275-4772 or visit the program's website at: www.hrsa.gov/countermeasurescomp/default.htm.

9**How can I learn more?**

- Ask your provider. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or
 - Visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu or www.cdc.gov/flu
- Visit the web at www.flu.gov



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



Vaccine Information Statement
2009 H1N1 Inactivated Influenza Vaccine 10/2/09

H1N1

Information About Person to Receive Vaccine (Please Print)

Last First Mi Birthdate Age

Address City/ST Zip Phone

Doctor's Name: _____

I have read or have had explained to me the information in the Vaccine Information Sheet about the vaccine that will be administered. I have had a chance to ask questions that were answered to my satisfaction. I believe I understand the benefits and risks of the vaccine and know that the vaccine listed on the bottom of this sheet will be given to the person named above for whom I am authorized to make this request. This immunization record will be entered on the Cornerstone system at the Ogle County Health Department. Signature of person to receive vaccine or person authorized to make the request (Parent or Guardian), please sign below. **I do allow the Ogle County Health Department to supply copies of my records to schools and/or doctor(s) offices as needed.**

Questions to Answer:

Yes No

1. Does your child have an allergy to EGGS?		
2. Does your child have an allergy to LATEX?		
3. Does your child have any other serious allergies that you know of? If yes, please list: _____		
4. Has your child ever had a serious reaction to a previous dose of flu vaccine?		
5. Has your child ever had Guillain-Barre= Syndrome (a type of temporary severe muscle weakness) within 6 weeks after receiving a flu vaccine?		

Signature (parent/guardian) _____ Date: _____

(Only children 9 yrs and under will require 2 shots.)

H1N1 Influenza (first one of two)

Date given _____

Man/Lot _____

Site - left arm VIS _____

H1N1 Influenza (second one of two)

Date given _____

Man/Lot _____

Site - left arm VIS _____

Nurse: _____

Nurse: _____