

SCHOOL DISTRICT LOGO

October 7, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

A new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was identified in the United States last spring. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many children have been infected by the 2009 H1N1 virus and some schools in the United States have had large outbreaks.

In order to limit the spread of the virus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1, as soon as vaccine is available. Other groups recommended to get the first available doses of the vaccine include:

- 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 virus.

XXXXXXXXX School District has partnered with the York Adams Metropolitan Medical Response System (YAMMRS) to make the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine available to all students. Qualified healthcare providers will administer the vaccine to your child at a date and time convenient to the school, but during school hours. Vaccinations will be provided **free of charge** to students returning a completed parent consent form. The vaccine will not be available to adults in the school setting, only students. Currently, the 2009 H1N1 vaccine will be available in the following formats:

1. **Traditional injection** or "Shot" – prepared from pieces of dead H1N1 viruses that, once injected, will trigger the immune system to create antibodies to attack the H1N1 virus. It is approved for use among persons 6 months of age and older, including those who have chronic medical conditions and pregnant females at any stage of pregnancy.
2. **H1N1 nasal spray** – contains live H1N1 viruses that have been changed so as not to cause the "flu", but help the body make antibodies to attack the H1N1 virus. It is **sprayed into the nose** rather than injected into the muscle. It is approved for healthy children 2 years of age and older and healthy adults up to 49 years of age, who are not pregnant. This option may be more appropriate for younger students in grades K-6.

IMPORTANT! – Children who have certain chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, kidney disease or a weakened immune system should **not** receive the H1N1 nasal spray, but should be vaccinated with the traditional injection.

In anticipation that the vaccine will be available from the Pennsylvania Department of Health in mid-October, please read the enclosed 2009-2010 Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS) to learn about the benefits and potential side effects of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. In addition, please review, complete and sign the enclosed parent consent form needed for state vaccination reporting. **The consent form should be returned to your child's primary or homeroom teacher by October 16, 2009.** All questions must be answered and the forms signed for your child to receive the vaccine. If you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccine, simply do not return the parental consent form. Students who do not receive the vaccine in the school setting will have the opportunity to attend a community immunization site at a later date. The dates, times and locations of these community immunization sites will be listed on the H1N1 Information Center (www.yammrs.org).

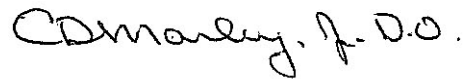
Currently, the CDC is recommending that children, 9 years of age and younger, receive two (2) doses of the H1N1 vaccine a minimum of 28 days apart. If your student is in this age range, YAMMRS will schedule the second round of vaccinations once students in all school districts have had the opportunity to receive their 1st dose of vaccine.

Please consider this opportunity for your child to be protected from the 2009 H1N1 virus. If you have any questions about the vaccine, please contact your child's healthcare provider, or visit the following websites: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>, <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> or <http://www.h1n1inpa.com>.

Sincerely,

XXXXXXX

Superintendent, School District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CD Marley, Jr. D.O." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Charles D. Marley, Jr., D.O., MHA
Chair, YAMMRS