



4800 Ledgewood Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256

Daniel J. Raub, DO, MA, FACOFP
Health Commissioner

888-723-9688
www.medinahhealth.org

Dear Parents/Guardians:

A new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many children have had 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been large outbreaks in some schools across the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that children and young adults 6 months of age through 24 years of age be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available. Other groups recommended getting the first doses of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine are:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services workers
- People 25 through 64 years of age who have certain health conditions such as HIV, diabetes, or heart or lung disease.

The Medina County Health Department is working with your child's school to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at on-site school clinics. The exact date and time of these clinics are being planned, and are based on the availability of vaccine. Children 6 months of age through 9 years of age are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced about 3 weeks apart. A second clinic will be scheduled to give them the second dose.

If you want your child to receive the H1N1 immunization, please read the Vaccine Information Sheet and complete the questions on the consent form. You must then sign and date the included consent form to accept vaccination for your child and return it to the school. If at any time you change your mind about having your child vaccinated, you can stop and pick up the consent form from your school. Consent forms must be received by October 12, 2009. **There will be no cost to you for your child to receive this vaccine.**

If you have any questions about the vaccine, please call toll-free 1-888-723-9688, visit www.medinahhealth.org, or you may visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web sites at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents>. Your child's healthcare provider is also a good resource.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Raub, DO
Medina County Health Commissioner

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