

ROCK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may have heard, a new influenza virus, called the H1N1 (Swine) 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 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 aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the 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 chronic health conditions

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. A schedule of H1N1 vaccination clinic opportunities is attached. These school located clinics are intended for school-age children. **You must be present with your child in order for your child to be vaccinated. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.** These clinics have been scheduled in advance of the supply of H1N1 vaccine delivery to our community. The dates will be rescheduled if the vaccine does not arrive in time for the clinics.

Questions? Please call the Rock County Health Department's H1N1 flu hotline at (608) 741-5200. Please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and also <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> for additional information especially for parents.

Thank you,

Rock County Health Department