



November 11, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you know, a new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. 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.

The Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMDPHW) and the Archdiocese of Louisville are working with your child's school to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at Catholic schools. We will hold vaccination clinics beginning in late November and continuing through mid-December. Your child's school will communicate specific dates to you.

Permission forms and vaccine information sheets are attached to this letter. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine. **Permission forms must be completely filled out and submitted to your child's school before a vaccine will be administered. If the form is not completely filled out and signed to give permission, your child will not receive the vaccine. The permission form also allows you to refuse the vaccination for your child. If you refuse, the vaccination will not be given to your child. Permission forms will also be available on the Archdiocese of Louisville website at www.archlou.org and/or the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness's website at www.louisvilleky.gov/health.**

Some children, dependent upon their age, may need two doses of vaccine spaced at least three to four weeks apart. Information concerning a second vaccination will come at a later date; however, we do not anticipate school-wide clinics for any second vaccinations.

Once the vaccine clinic is held, a notice will be sent home with your child to let you know they received the vaccine. In the event that the child does not receive the vaccine for some reason, the notice will identify the reason. For example, if the documents were not completely filled out, if the child refuses the vaccine, or if the type of vaccine requested (mist/injection) is not available that day, etc. If you have any questions about the logistics (date, time, location) for the vaccination clinics, please call your child's school.

If you have medical questions about the vaccine, please consult your child's medical provider, the H1N1 fact sheet in this packet, the LMDPHW H1N1 hotline (568-4161), the Kentucky Health Department hotline (1-877-843-7727), www.flu.gov, or www.cdc.gov. School and archdiocesan personnel will not be able to answer any medical questions regarding the H1N1 vaccine. **Please consult with your child's provider before signing the permission form especially if your child has any health conditions. Additional information or documentation from your child's health care provider may be needed depending upon the health condition.**

Sincerely,

Leisa Schulz
Superintendent