

Cook County Department of Public Health

Cook County Health & Hospitals System

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Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Chief Operating Officer

November, 2009

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that certain groups of people, including pregnant women, children and young people 6 months through 24 years of age, persons to age 64 who have certain health conditions, and parents/caregivers of infants under age 6 months, be vaccinated against the novel H1N1 influenza virus. As you may have heard, this new H1N1 influenza virus has caused mild to severe illness resulting in hospitalization in both children and adults. Children have been most affected by this virus, do not possess immunity to it, and are considered at high risk of infection. As we enter the Fall and Winter flu season, the CDC is concerned that this virus may cause more illness and that it may be more severe. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease.

The H1N1 vaccine is being offered at your child's daycare by CCDPH in the coming months. This vaccination is not mandatory but strongly recommended. On the scheduled vaccination date, each child for whom a consent is received will receive a single dose of vaccine. In deciding whether to be present for your child's vaccination session, please consider how your child normally reacts to vaccinations. While some children are actually more cooperative when parents are not present, CCDPH personnel will not be able to restrain children and daycare personnel will be asked to provide only comforting restraint needed for your child's safety. If your child becomes very agitated, we may be unable to vaccinate him or her.

In order for your child to be vaccinated, your written consent is required. Enclosed is a consent form and the Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) for Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccine. Please review the VIS carefully. **If you decide to have your child vaccinated, you must completely fill out and sign the consent form and return it to your child's daycare before the scheduled date of vaccination. We regret that we cannot offer a choice in the selection of vaccine. Your responses to the questions on the consent form and the availability of supplies will determine which vaccine your child will receive.**

Children ages 9 and younger are recommended to receive a second dose at least 28 days after the first dose to provide the highest level of protection. Since we expect to be able to visit the daycare only once to provide a single dose, you will be responsible for obtaining the second dose of vaccine for your child. You should contact your private health care provider to arrange the second dose for your child. A flyer listing other locations where you may obtain the second dose of H1N1 vaccine will also be posted on the CCDPH website at www.cookcountypublichealth.org.

If you have any questions about the vaccination program at your child's school, the VIS, or the consent form, please contact CCDPH at 708-492-2828 between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM or via e-mail at BeAware@ccdph.net. Your specific information and questions will be kept confidential.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin, Jr. PhD, MPH
Chief Operating Officer

Enclosures

- VIS for Novel H1N1 Vaccination (Live, Intranasal and Inactivated)
- Consent Form for Novel H1N1 Vaccination
- Notice of Privacy Practices