

# 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

October, 2009

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

In early September, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) sent you a letter with information on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention H1N1 flu virus recommendations. While this new flu virus has caused mild to severe illness resulting in hospitalizations and deaths in both children and adults, children have been most affected and are considered at high risk for infection. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious illness.

The H1N1 vaccine is being offered at your child's school by CCDPH in the coming months. This vaccination is not mandatory but strongly recommended. In order for your child to be vaccinated, your written consent is required.

Enclosed is a consent form and the Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS) for Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccine. Please review the VIS carefully. **If you decide to have your child vaccinated, please sign the consent form and return it to your child's school before the scheduled date of vaccination.**

On the scheduled vaccination date, each child will receive a single dose of vaccine. Children ages 9 and younger are recommended to receive a second dose to provide the highest level of protection. 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](http://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](mailto:BeAware@ccdph.net). Your specific information and questions will be kept confidential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen A. Martin, Jr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

SAM/sm/gmb

Enclosures

- VIS for Novel H1N1 Vaccination
- Consent Form for Novel H1N1 Vaccination