



# BROWN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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December 1, 2009

Dear Parents/guardians:

**Brown County Public Health department is working with your child's school to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at school.**

**Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease.**

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 virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, resulting in hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. There have been outbreaks in many schools across the country, including in Minnesota. 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.

- We hope to be able to hold vaccination clinics beginning sometime in December or January. Your child's school will let you know the specific dates and times once vaccine is on hand. Notification will be done by a paper notice home, the school website, KNUJ radio and the local newspapers
- **There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.**
- In order to be prepared to distribute the vaccine when we receive it, we are asking parents to complete the attached **consent form** and return it to the school by Monday **December 7, 2009** if you would like your child to receive the vaccine at a school clinic. **If the consent is not returned by December 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 your child will not receive the vaccine at the school clinic. We need to have the number of students so we can anticipate how much vaccine we will need.**
- The vaccine will come in the form of a mist and the form of a shot. We do not know how much of each type will be available for the school clinics. **"Flu Mist "or "Flu Shot".** If your student is a child between ages 5-18 and is healthy they are eligible for both types.
- **The FDA has approved both the "flu mist" and the "flu shot" for children because it has been safe and effective for children in clinical trials. H1N1 vaccine is manufactured in the same way as the "seasonal" influenza vaccine**
- Children under age 10 need two doses of vaccine spaced about 4 weeks apart – we will alert you to the location and times when the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose is available for school age children under age 10.

- The Centers for Disease Control is recommending that all school age children receive the vaccine even if they have already experienced symptoms of H1N1 influenza. Only persons that have had a positive H1N1 influenza test done at the Minnesota Department of Health in St. Paul, MN or other state laboratory are being told they do not need the vaccine. Positive rapid A influenza tests done at the local clinic are not a specific test for H1N1 Influenza.
- Included is more information about the disease and the vaccine. Please keep the vaccine information sheets so you can refer to them the day your child receives the vaccine.
- The consent form is also located on your school website if they have one or at the Brown County website at [www.co.brown.mn.us](http://www.co.brown.mn.us)
- Your child's health care provider will also have a supply of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call Brown County Public Health at 507-233-6820 from 8 AM to 5 PM. Please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and also <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> and <http://www.health.state.mn.us> for information especially for parents or links on the Brown County website at [www.co.brown.mn.us](http://www.co.brown.mn.us)

Sincerely,

Brown County Public Health