



Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may have heard, 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, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many children have gotten 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been outbreaks in some schools across the county. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that children and young adults aged six months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available. Other groups recommended getting the first available doses of the vaccine included:

People who live with or care for children younger than six months of age
Healthcare and emergency medical service workers
Children and young adults 2 through 24 years of age

McLaren Visiting Nurse and Hospice, along with Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) are working with schools to vaccinate children with the H1N1 influenza vaccine. We will hold a vaccination clinic at :

Clinic Information

Date: November 5, 2009

Location: Swartz Creek High School cafeteria

Time: 4pm– 6pm

Please do not arrive until after 2:45pm to allow High School Dismissal

*Attached, please find more information about the disease and the vaccine. Parents/guardians must be present for your child under the age of 18 to receive the vaccine.

**Children under the age of 10 need two doses of vaccine spaced about three weeks apart. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call Mr. Michael Vanderlip, Dir. of Secondary Instruction at 591-2388.. Please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and also <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> for information especially for parents. Your child's healthcare provider also can answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and will be able to give your child the seasonal influenza vaccine and may be able to give your child the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

Sincerely,
Michael Vanderlip



2009 H1N1 Flu Vaccine Information

- Getting an H1N1 vaccination is voluntary.
- The vaccine is free. Most insurance will cover an administration fee for the vaccine. The Health Department is working to cover administration fees for those without insurance coverage for vaccinations.
- Children 2 through 9 years should receive two doses of 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine. These doses should be spaced 3-4 weeks apart.
- Children ages 10 and older and adults only need to receive 1 dose of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine.
- Due to limited vaccine availability , vaccine will be provided **ONLY** to the following priority groups most in need of the vaccine:
 - Children and young adults 2 through 24 years of age
 - People 25 through 49 years of age **ONLY** if they live with or care for infants less than 6 months of age
 - Healthcare and emergency **medical** services personnel.

The nasal spray vaccine cannot be given to people with the following health conditions:

- An illness with fever or any respiratory illnesses until 3 days after symptoms have subsided.
- An allergy to any part of the vaccine including eggs and gelatin
- Children and adolescents receiving aspirin therapy
- A history of Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Known or suspected immune system problems
- Pregnant women and people with certain medical conditions such as asthma, or reactive airways disease
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2009 H1N1 flu Vaccine Safety

H1N1 Vaccine Safety

- The 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine is safe.
- You can not get the H1N1 flu from the H1N1 flu vaccine.
- The 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine is produced the same way that the seasonal flu vaccine is produced. It was produced by the same manufacturers and it took the same amount of time to produce this vaccine as it takes to produce the seasonal flu vaccine.
- Thimerosal is a mercury-based preservative. It is used in flu vaccines that come in multi-dose vials to prevent contamination of the vaccine after the vaccine is opened

Several vaccine manufacturers will be producing limited supplies of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine versions that do not require the use of thimerosal as a preservative.

