

910 Route 54 East
POB 518
Clinton, IL 61727
Phone: 217.935.3427
Fax: 217.935.4037



1020 S. Market Street
Monticello, IL 61856
Phone: 217.762.7911
Fax: 217.762.3422

October 6, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

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 mild to severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths in adults and children. Many children have come down with or developed 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been large outbreaks in some schools across the country. 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.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. Our agency is working with your child's school to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children in school-based vaccination clinics to be scheduled shortly. **There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.** Depending upon availability, there may be both live virus (nasal spray) and inactivated virus (shot) vaccine available. Enclosed is a consent form that upon your signature and return will allow your child to receive this vaccination. Only those children with a completed and signed consent form will be eligible to receive this vaccination. **It is important that this form be completed entirely.** Your child's vaccination is dependent upon your consent and the availability of vaccine. There is no requirement for your child to be vaccinated. Look for information and dates of clinics on the school district website or in informational flyers sent home with your child.

Children less than 10 years of age are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced about 3 weeks apart. Our agency will work with the schools to schedule follow-up vaccination clinics as appropriate.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call: 217-762-7911 x 26 from 8 AM to 3:30 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> for information especially for parents. Your child's health care 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Remmert", is written over a white background.

David M. Remmert, M.P.H.
Public Health Administrator