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734-727-7100

Taylor Health Center  
26650 Eureka Road, Taylor, MI  
734-955-3900

Redford Area Health Center  
17421 Telegraph, Detroit, MI  
313-537-1708

September 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that children 6 months through 18 years of age, in addition to other groups of people, be vaccinated against the new H1N1 ("swine flu") influenza virus as soon as a vaccine becomes available. As you may have heard, this new influenza virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe and has caused hospitalizations in both adults and children. Because children do not have immunity to this virus, they have been most affected by it and are considered at high risk of infection. As the U.S. begins its fall and winter flu season, the CDC is concerned that this virus may cause more illness, which may be severe in some cases. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potential serious disease.

In addition to our regularly scheduled vaccination program, the Wayne County Department of Public Health (WCDPH) will hold mass vaccination clinics in the community beginning this fall. It is expected that the vaccine will be available mid to late October. Your child's school will be provided specific dates and locations once the vaccine is available. Children are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced three or more weeks apart. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine if you choose to have your child vaccinated.

The WCDPH and Wayne County Schools are working together to follow the guidance provided by the CDC and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) for preventing and managing the spread of H1N1 flu virus in schools. Schools will not be closed for individual suspected or confirmed cases of H1N1 flu virus unless guidance changes from CDC or MDCH. Students and staff with flu-like symptoms are expected to stay home for a minimum of 24 hours after they no longer have fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

Under conditions with similar severity as in spring 2009, the **WCDPH will not advise schools to close** unless absenteeism among staff or students due to flu interferes with the school's ability to function. Schools and parents can help contain the spread of the flu virus by encouraging good cough, sneeze and hand hygiene practices.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact us at 734-727-7078. You may also visit us at [www.waynecounty.com](http://www.waynecounty.com) or the CDC's novel H1N1 influenza website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents/> for information for parents. Additionally, your child's healthcare provider can answer your questions about the new H1N1 virus, and the need for your child to be vaccinated.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Loretta V. Davis in black ink.

Loretta V. Davis, MSA  
Director/Health Officer

Handwritten signature of Talat Danish in black ink.

Talat Danish, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Medical Director