

September 15, 2009

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff Members:

As we return to school it is important to communicate to all about the expected return of the H1N1 flu this fall. Since the virus disproportionately affects young people, it is critical that schools be prepared to help prevent the flu's spread and be ready to respond to outbreaks. District administrators and school nurses have met with local health and state officials and developed plans for addressing issues related to the H1N1 virus.

What the schools will do:

- The district will provide tissues and hand sanitizers in all classrooms and other areas throughout the schools.
- Routine cleaning and sanitizing of school facilities will continue.
- Notices have been posted to remind students to wash hands. Handwashing and other preventative measures will be reviewed with students.
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that children from age 6 months to 24 years of age get vaccinated for the H1N1 virus. The district will not mandate that every child get the H1N1 flu vaccination.
- Teachers will post homework and other assignments on Homework Hero for students to reference if they are at home recovering from the flu.

What parents should do:

- If your child exhibits flu-like symptoms, i.e. fever, cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, etc. please keep your child home. **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL SICK!** If your child is sick, call the school and let us know the nature of the illness.
- If a child becomes ill in school, the child will be separated from the school population, will be required to wear a mask, and must be immediately sent home with a responsible adult. Make sure that you have identified an emergency contact who can come to school for your child if you are not available.
- Your child must be fever free for 24 hours (without the use of medication) before he/she will be permitted to return to school. All children must report to the school nurse upon returning to school.
- Consult with your family doctor or pediatrician about having your child/children vaccinated for the H1N1 virus as well as for seasonal flu.

Included with this letter is an informational flyer concerning the H1N1 virus. Additional information is also available by visiting www.flu.gov. Updates concerning district activities will be posted on the Rutherford School's website at www.rutherfordschools.org. We will notify you of any additions or changes to our school district's plans to prevent the spread of the flu.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation. By working together we can prevent the spread of the flu and keep the interruption to the school year at a minimum.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie A. O'Keefe



PO Box 360
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Heather Howard
Commissioner

For Release:
October 28, 2009

For Further Information Contact:
Office of Communications
(609) 984-7160

Statement from Department of Health and Senior Services Commissioner Heather Howard on H1N1 Influenza

New Jersey continues to maintain open lines of communication with the public to ensure they have access to the most recent information on H1N1 influenza. There are a number of tools that New Jerseyans can use to stay informed, and simple everyday actions we can take to stay healthy.

New Jersey opened an **H1N1 Information Hotline - 1-866-321-9571** earlier this month. Because of increased interest, call center hours will be extended to weekends. This toll-free public hotline will now be accessible seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call center operators will be able to provide general information about H1N1, vaccine safety and availability information, symptoms of H1N1 and flu preventive measures. Since opening the hotline, the Department has answered more than 7,730 calls from the public.

New Jersey's flu activity has moved from regional to widespread. This means that H1N1 flu is present in a majority of counties throughout the state. While any type of flu is cause for concern, it is not cause for alarm. I urge all residents to stay informed and take simple preventive measures to stay healthy.

I also want to take this opportunity to provide an update on vaccine production and availability, vaccine safety, and H1N1 target populations.

New Jersey's H1N1 Public Information Initiative

In an effort to provide critical information to the public, New Jersey created a Find a Flu Shot Locator, an H1N1 Resource Center website, and a toll-free hotline. These resources will help ensure residents and health care providers have access to information and can obtain accurate responses to their questions.

The State established an **H1N1 Resource Center website** that includes important information and timely updates on H1N1 flu in New Jersey. The website can be found at www.nj.gov/health. Additional information on H1N1 flu is available at the federal website, www.flu.gov.

The **Find a Flu Shot Locator** can be accessed at www.nj.gov/health. Residents can find where H1N1 flu clinics are being held throughout the State. Not all clinics are included on this list because some are being offered to very specific target populations, such as school-based efforts and private doctors' offices. Public flu clinics will be posted on this site as soon as they are scheduled. Additional public health clinics will be scheduled as more vaccine arrives.

H1N1 Vaccine Production and Availability

Many residents are concerned with the slower than expected arrival of H1N1 vaccine. Please understand that the

H1N1 vaccine, like other vaccines, is produced by manufacturers and distributed by the federal government. We will do all that we can to ensure orders are placed in a timely manner and that the vaccine is getting to the target populations.

As of October 28, 2009, New Jersey ordered approximately 1.3 million doses of vaccine and more than 567,000 doses have been distributed to nearly 891 providers statewide. Shipments of the H1N1 vaccine will continue to arrive throughout this month and into the winter.

The federal government has assured us that ultimately there will be enough vaccine for everyone who wants it. However, with only limited vaccine available at this time, it is important to first target the individuals most susceptible to H1N1 flu.

H1N1 Target Populations

It is recommended that certain target groups be among the first to receive the H1N1 vaccine as it becomes available. These groups include:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza

H1N1 Vaccine is Safe

Many parents have raised concerns about the safety of the new H1N1 vaccine. All vaccines, including the H1N1 vaccine, are held to the highest standard of safety and are continually monitored. Each year, millions of Americans safely receive seasonal flu vaccines. The H1N1 vaccine is made the same way as seasonal flu vaccine by the same manufacturers that make seasonal flu vaccine. In addition, the National Institute of Health (NIH) has conducted clinical trials for the H1N1 vaccine. The vaccine has been tested and safely used in children, pregnant woman, and adults.



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY
Commissioner

Broadcast #3

September 15, 2009

TO: District Superintendents
Charter School Leaders

FROM: Gerald J. Vernotica, Ed.D.
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services

SUBJECT: CDC H1N1 Guidance for Preschool and Child Care Facilities

DISTRIBUTE TO: Principals
School Nurses
Staff as appropriate

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued H1N1 guidance for preschool and child care facilities. We strongly encourage you to post this information on your website so parents have up-to-date information on H1N1. The information is posted in both English and Spanish – see links below:

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/professional/school/childguidance.html>

http://espanol.pandemicflu.gov/pandemicflu/enes/24/_www_flu_gov/professional/school/childguidance.html



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JON S. CORZINE
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Broadcast #4

October 13, 2009

TO: District Superintendents
Charter School Leaders

SUBJECT: H1N1 Resources for Parents

DISTRIBUTE TO: Principals
School Nurses
Parents

The Centers for Disease Control have posted "Seasonal and H1N1 2009 Flu: A Guide for Parents," on their website at: [Flyer: Seasonal and Novel H1N1 Flu: A Guide for Parents.](#)

Additional resources can be found on the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources>



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Broadcast #3

October 20, 2009

TO: District Superintendents
Charter School Leaders

SUBJECT: H1N1 Influenza Update – Week of October 19

TOTAL PAGES: 2

DISTRIBUTE TO: Principals
School Nurses
Staff as appropriate

State of New Jersey H1N1 Influenza Update **Week of October 19th**

- **State H1N1 Call Center - 1-866-321-9571** – New Jersey is operating a toll-free public information hotline on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The information line number is **1-866-321-9571**. Call center operators will be able to provide general information about H1N1, vaccine safety and availability information, symptoms of H1N1 and flu preventive measures.
- **H1N1 Vaccine is Safe** – All vaccines, including the H1N1 vaccine, are held to the highest standard of safety and are continually monitored. Each year, millions of Americans safely receive seasonal flu vaccines. The H1N1 vaccine is made the same way as seasonal flu vaccine by the same companies that make seasonal flu vaccine. The National Institute of Health (NIH) has conducted clinical trials for the H1N1 vaccine. The vaccine has been tested and safely used in children, pregnant woman, and adults.
- **State H1N1 Resource Center / Flu Shot Locator** – The most up-to-date H1N1 influenza information can be found at: www.nj.gov/health/flu/h1n1. This website includes links on where to find seasonal flu shots. When the H1N1 vaccine is more widely available, this website will also have a search engine to find where you can get your H1N1 vaccine.
- **H1N1 Vaccine will Arrive in Stages Over a Three-Month Period** – Shipments of the H1N1 vaccine will continue to arrive throughout this month and into November and December. Vaccine availability will be very limited at first and will increase over time.
- **What You Can Do to Stay Healthy**
 - Stay informed, and take everyday actions to stay healthy.
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
 - Stay home if you are sick.
- **Symptoms of H1N1** – The symptoms of H1N1 flu include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting.