



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

October 22, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Polk County Health Department is offering a vaccination opportunity at your child's school at no cost to you to protect children from the H1N1 Swine Flu virus. Our goals are to reduce absenteeism and vaccinate children with minimal disruption to the learning process and your daily activities. To accomplish these goals we need your help.

The date for your child's vaccination opportunity is attached to the front of this packet. In addition, this packet contains this parent letter, a Vaccine Consent Form, and a H1N1 Swine Flu Vaccine Information Sheet for the nose spray.

In order to take advantage of this vaccination opportunity, you must take these steps:

- Carefully read the answers to commonly asked questions on the back of this letter and the H1N1 Swine Flu Vaccine Information Sheet (tan sheet).
- Parents who are unsure if their child should get a vaccination should discuss vaccine options with their child's health care provider. There is also a toll-free Florida Flu Information Line (1-877-352-3581) for additional information on H1N1 Swine Flu. The information line is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Information is available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. The web sites www.myflusafety.com and www.flu.gov are also very useful for obtaining up to date information to help parents make an informed decision.
- If you wish to have your child vaccinated at school, complete the attached Vaccine Consent Form and return the completed Consent Form to your child's school by date indicated.

NO CHILD WILL BE VACCINATED WITHOUT A COMPLETED AND SIGNED VACCINE CONSENT FORM.

NOTE: Children (9 years old and younger) will need a second dose after 30 days to provide adequate protection. Parents of these students will receive a second consent form at a later date to complete for their child to receive the second dose of vaccine at their school.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support for this important initiative to protect the health of every school aged child.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel O. Haight, MD".

Daniel O. Haight, MD, FACP
Director, Polk County Health Department
Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases
College of Medicine, University of South Florida

POLK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Daniel O. Haight, MD
Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
1290 Golfview Avenue, 4th Floor Bartow, FL 33830-6740
Phone (863) 534-7277 FAX (863) 534-0293

Lynne M. Saddler, MD, MPH
Assistant Director

Common Questions and Answers Concerning School-Based Vaccinations

Q. Is the H1N1 Swine Flu vaccination mandatory or voluntary?

A. The H1N1 Swine Flu vaccine is voluntary. Florida is not mandating that anyone get this vaccination.

Q. How much does it cost to participate in the school-based program?

A. This school-based vaccination program is provided at no cost to the parent.

Q. Do I have to be there when my child is vaccinated?

A. Although not required, parents may be present when their child is vaccinated (unless otherwise restricted by school board policy).

Q. Will this be my child's only opportunity for vaccination?

A. Getting an H1N1 Swine Flu vaccination at school is not your only option. Vaccinations will eventually be available at doctor's offices, pharmacies, and other sites once additional shipments of vaccine are received. However, administration fees may apply at other sites.

Q. Will there be make-up dates at school if my child is absent from school or fails to return his/her consent form?

A. If your child is absent on the day we visit your school, you will need to take your child to their personal doctor or other non-school sites where the vaccines will be offered. We cannot provide a make-up date for these vaccinations at each individual school.

Q. Are all schools going to be vaccinated on the same day?

A. Not all schools will see vaccination opportunities at the same time. Vaccination events will be scheduled for other schools over the next several weeks.

Q. How is the health department ensuring that the correct child is vaccinated?

A. Efforts to ensure the correct student is vaccinated include: pre-printing student names, student ID numbers, and grade levels on forms. If there are any questions or doubts as to a child's identity, that child will not be vaccinated.

Q. Does the H1N1 Swine flu vaccine provide protection against the seasonal flu?

A. No. It is still recommended that your child be vaccinated for the seasonal flu.

Q. Will the seasonal flu vaccine be offered at the school?

A. No. Parents should contact their healthcare provider for seasonal flu vaccine.

Q. Who do I contact with additional questions or concerns?

- H1N1 Swine Flu Information Page (www.myflusafety.com)
- Florida FLU Line (1-877-352-3581) is available 24/7 with a recorded message; live operators are available from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- Polk County Health Department, 863-534-7277