



Atlantic County Department of Human Services

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Dennis Levinson
County Executive

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you've most likely heard, there is a new flu virus, called 2009 H1N1, that first appeared in the United States this past April. This 2009 H1N1 influenza has caused mild to severe illness (including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children).

Among other priority groups, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that children and young adults (ages 6 months through 24 years) be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 flu as soon as vaccine is available.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease.

Although the 2009 H1N1 vaccine is voluntary, if you are interested in vaccinating your child **you are strongly encouraged to contact your child's pediatrician, your family physician, Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FOHC), or local pharmacy.**

The federal government is providing the vaccine for free, however your provider may charge an administrative fee which may be covered by insurance.

In addition, the Atlantic County Division of Public Health is working with school districts throughout the county to give the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine to children at certain public schools in each district. Once the vaccine is received, we will hold vaccination clinics, with specific instructions and dates to be announced.

Children under age 10 are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced at least three weeks apart.

If you have any questions about the 2009 H1N1 flu virus, the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call the Division's Flu Hotline, at 609-677-5720; or the state health department's hotline at 866-321-9571. You can also visit the CDC's H1N1 Influenza web site at: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu, and www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents for information especially for parents.

Sincerely,

Patricia Diamond, Health Officer
Atlantic County Division of Public Health

c: Joia Di Stefano, Director of Health Education