

H1N1 UPDATE

On Monday, November 9, 2009, the Public Health Department will be at Edgewood Campus School to give students the vaccine for H1N1. Very soon, a brown envelope with information and a consent form will be coming home in your child's backpack. Only students who have a consent form signed by the parent or legal guardian will be allowed to receive the vaccine. Also enclosed will be information sheets about the two types of vaccine: the nose spray vaccine and the injectable vaccine. Your answers to the questions on the consent form will determine which vaccine your child receives. Note: If your child has had the regular flu vaccine within four weeks of November 9, and you want your child to have the H1N1 flu vaccine, the injectable vaccine will most likely be given... not the nasal spray.

Children under 10 will need a second dose of the vaccine. The Health Department will return to Edgewood Campus School in December to administer this second dose, and you will be required to fill out a second consent form.

A Privacy Statement is also enclosed in this packet of information. The Public Health Department and Edgewood Campus School will do everything possible to maintain your child's privacy.

If you choose to allow your child to receive the vaccine at school, please prepare him or her for what will happen. We welcome you to come if you wish to be here with your child during the time the vaccine is administered. The exact timeframe has not been decided yet, but we will let you know what it is as soon as we know. Each student will be monitored for 15 minutes after the vaccine is given to be sure they feel OK.

Know that even with a consent form, if your child cannot be calmed or held still in a gentle manner, the vaccine may not be given.

If you think your children would be better suited to receive this vaccine by your family doctor, that is your personal choice and we support you in that decision. You can access more information about the flu to help you make your decision about this vaccine at www.publichealthmdc.com/H1N1news.

Please speak to your children about letting you know when they receive this very important brown envelope of information from their teacher. After you receive it, please review all of the pages very carefully. If you want your children to have the vaccine, fill out the consent form completely. All questions one through nine must be

answered. If you do NOT want your child to have the vaccine, please check that box on the form. The form must be signed and dated and returned to school. Please return these forms to the office or classroom teacher before November 5.