



# OLEY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

JEFFREY F. ZACKON, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

17 JEFFERSON STREET  
OLEY, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA 19547  
Email: [jzackon@ovsdpa.org](mailto:jzackon@ovsdpa.org)  
Telephone (610) 987-4100 ext. 1134  
Fax (610) 987-4201

November 12, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As I have previously communicated with you, a new influenza virus, called 2009 H1N1 Influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many children have contracted the 2009 H1N1 infection and large outbreaks have been reported in some schools in Pennsylvania and across the country. Oley Valley has not had any large outbreak of the virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that children and young adults ages 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available. Other groups recommended to receive the first doses of 2009 H1N1 Influenza vaccine are:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency workers, and
- People ages 25 through 64 years who have certain health conditions such as HIV, diabetes, or heart or lung disease.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is working with the Oley Valley School District to offer the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to school age children at our schools. We are hoping to hold vaccination clinics prior to the Holiday Break, and your child's school will let you know the specific dates and times once the vaccine is on hand. Children up to 10 years of age are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced about three weeks apart. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine and a parent/guardian must be present with the student at the time of vaccination. There is no guarantee that Oley Valley is getting the vaccine.

The vaccine consent form includes options allowing you to either accept or refuse the vaccination for your child. If you refuse, the vaccination will not be given to your child.

Please read the Vaccine Information Sheet included with this letter about the disease and the vaccine. Sign and date the included consent form to accept the vaccination for your child and return it to your child's school. If you accept the vaccination, the vaccine will be given to your child when it becomes available. School staff will let you know when each building's vaccination clinic will take place. Forms are due back to your child's school by Wednesday, November 25, 2009.

If at any time, you change your mind about having your child vaccinated you can withdraw their name. Giving consent early will ensure that your child is ready to receive the vaccine as soon as it becomes available.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the Oley Valley vaccination clinics, please call your building nurse. Please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and also <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> for more information.

Your child's health provider also can answer your questions about the H1N1 influenza virus and will be able to give your child the seasonal influenza vaccine and may be able to give your child the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey F. Zackon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "Z" at the end.

Jeffrey F. Zackon, Ed.D.  
Superintendent