

November 30, 2009

Dear Scotia-Glenville Parent / Guardian:

Earlier this school year, the district sent home a letter describing several steps taken at Scotia-Glenville to prepare for this year's flu season and several tips to help parents and children stay healthy. Our district has implemented many strategies to help mitigate the spread of the virus such as installing hand sanitizers in high traffic areas as well as an aggressive cleaning program.

As expected, we have gone through a period where quite a few Scotia-Glenville students have been absent with "influenza-like illness," a phrase that describes a person who shows symptoms of having any type of flu – seasonal or H1N1. Throughout this period, we have worked closely with Schenectady County Public Health Services (SCPHS) to be kept informed, which included working with their plan on how to provide the appropriate vaccinations for our children when it became available.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that people from ages 6 months to 24 years be vaccinated against the virus. It is recommended that your child be vaccinated even if they have had an influenza-like illness.

Schenectady County Public Health Services will be offering a clinic in our district to provide the H1N1 vaccine for free to students currently enrolled in our programs. This includes all students enrolled in Scotia-Glenville Schools from Kindergarten to Grade 12. This clinic will be set up at Sacandaga School on Wednesday, December 16. There will be arrangements made to bring students participating in the clinic from our district schools to this clinic throughout the day.

As a parent or guardian, it is your decision whether or not to allow your child to receive the H1N1 vaccine at school. ***Only children whose parents or guardians have completed the attached form from the SCPHS will be vaccinated.***

In making your decision, please note that:

- The information from SCPHS describes the vaccines and the vaccination process.
- Students who are nine years of age or younger need *two doses* of the vaccine given at least four weeks apart. Older students only need one dose of the vaccine. For children under nine years of age, you should contact your child's personal physician or check with SCPHS regarding future clinics that will be held in the coming weeks.
- **Parents or guardians who want their child to receive the H1N1 vaccine must complete the parent/guardian consent form and return it to their child's teacher by Friday, December 11.**
- On the consent form, questions 1-14 should be answered from the perspective of your child. Your answers to some questions may be "no" because the questions do not apply to children. If your answer is "do not know" or "not applicable", please circle the number 3.
- You do not need a witness to your signature. SCPHS will complete the "witness" section.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinic, please call SCPHS at 386-2824 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. from Monday through Friday.

For additional information, please visit ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org, www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents, or speak to your pediatrician or family health care provider.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Swartz