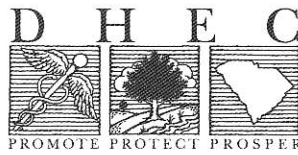


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Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

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November 20, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Several weeks back, your child received his/her first novel H1N1 flu (swine flu) vaccine (shot). Because your child is less than 10 years old, he/she will need a second dose. DHEC will return to your child's school to vaccinate children that need two doses of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine (shots). We hope that offering the vaccine at school will make it easier for you to get your child vaccinated with the second dose. There is no charge. **We will not vaccinate your child unless you give us written consent.**

Remember that vaccination is the best way to protect your child from the flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that school-aged children get vaccinations for seasonal flu and the novel H1N1 flu (swine flu). In addition, CDC recommends two doses of the novel H1N1 flu (swine flu) for children less than 10 years old. Flu vaccinations are not required for school attendance, but they are recommended to keep your child from getting sick with the flu.

- Please read the Vaccine Information Statement (attached) about the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine.
- Fill out the Parental Consent form to let us know if you want your child to receive the second vaccination (shot) at school. If you want your child to get the vaccine at school, there are health questions that you need to answer to help us decide if your child is able to get the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine (shot).
- **Have your child return the Parental Consent form to the school by the date requested. Please return the consent even if you do not want your child to be vaccinated at school.**
- Keep the Vaccine Information Statement about the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine in case you want to read it again later.

There are several types of the vaccine that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as safe. The vaccine is available as an injection (a shot) or a nasal spray. The vaccine that will be used at your child's school is the vaccine which is given as a shot. The nasal spray will not be offered at school. If you want your child to receive the nasal spray, please talk with your child's primary healthcare provider.

If your child gets his/her second dose of the novel H1N1 flu shot at school, we will send a card home with your child for your records. If you consent to your child receiving the vaccine at school and we are not able to give the vaccine, you will be notified.

If you have questions about the flu or the flu vaccine, call your child's primary healthcare provider or the DHEC Flu Hotline at 1-800-27-SHOTS (1-800-277-4687). There is also information about flu on the DHEC web site at www.scdhec.gov/flu/swine-flu.htm.

Together, let's keep our children healthy and ready to learn.

Sincerely,

Lisa Waddell, M.D., M.P.H.

Deputy Commissioner for Health Services