



ADMINISTRATION:

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District website
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GUIDANCE:

Ms. Elise Smith

Dr. Phillip Mead

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January 8, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardian:

As you know the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus is widespread and has caused illness ranging from mild to severe in children. As of November 12, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have confirmed 129 pediatric deaths nationwide due to the H1N1 virus. The CDC is recommending that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. Several of our local school districts are now offering flu clinics. Even if you suspect that your child has had the H1N1 flu it is still recommended that your child receive the vaccination. Therefore, the Bristol/Franklin All Health Hazards Region (AHRH) is working with Winnisquam Regional Middle School to offer the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to your child at school.

Winnisquam Regional Middle School will be hosting a H1N1 vaccination clinic on **January 28, 2010** sponsored by the Caring Community Network of the Twin Rivers and the Bristol/Franklin AHRH 6. **The vaccine is free of charge** and will be administered by the Bristol/Franklin AHRH 6.

Enclosed with this letter are the Vaccine Information Sheets (VIS), permission form, and some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). We are asking all parents to read the enclosed information about the vaccination options and then return the permission form to the school nurse. **PERMISSION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL BY JANUARY 14th.**

Children 9 years and younger will require two doses of the vaccine with 28 days between each vaccination, which will be offered at a follow-up school clinic. More information about the 2nd dose administration will be sent at a later date to parents of these children.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinic, please call: 286-7143 ext 204 or email questions to blabranche@wrsdsau59.org. Additional information can be found at the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. Your child's health care provider can also answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and vaccine.

Sincerely,

Pamela Miller
Principal

Bobbie LaBranche, RN
School Nurse