

“Central News”

A Quarterly Newsletter for Preschools & K-12 Schools



Central Michigan District
Health Department

Proudly serving the local
residents of Arenac, Clare,
Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and
Roscommon Counties since
1970.

H1N1 Flu Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) anticipates there will be an increase in H1N1 (Swine) Influenza this fall. Local health departments are working with State and Federal health officials to develop response plans – targeting ways to prevent spread of the illness.

The Central Michigan District Health Department (which covers Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon Counties) will be working with school partners focusing on two strategies: 1) non-vaccination, and 2) vaccination.

Non-Vaccination Strategy for Schools

- Teaching students and teachers proper hygiene, such as the importance of covering their cough (by sneezing into their elbow), washing hands frequently and keeping their hands away from their face.
- Students or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home. *Important note to parents:* To assist your child's school in reporting possible communicable diseases to the health department and prevent the spread of illness, please be as detailed as possible when describing your child's illness when you report it to school personnel. It is also a good idea to have a back-up daycare plan for when your child is sick and unable to go to school or daycare.

Vaccination Strategy to Control Influenza for Schools

All children are encouraged to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine as soon as it is available. It is anticipated that local health departments will be receiving a shipment of the H1N1 vaccine in mid-October. The CDC's recommendations for the target groups who should receive the vaccine include:

- All people 6 months through 24 years of age
- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months
- Health care and emergency services personnel
- People ages 25 through 64 years with certain health conditions

The health department is planning to offer vaccination clinics in K-12 schools. The immunization will be administered to those children who have a signed parental consent. Vaccinations will also be available at area doctors' offices. All students are encouraged to receive the H1N1 vaccine.

The parental consent form for the swine flu vaccination is not currently available. As soon as the form is available schools and parents will be notified as to how the consent forms will be distributed.

The H1N1 vaccine will be available from most doctors, some pharmacies, and your local health department.

It is the current recommendation from the CDC that schools not be closed if a case of H1N1 influenza infection is confirmed. However, a school might be dismissed if there is a high rate of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.

SPECIAL EDITION

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**For more
information on
H1N1 influenza,
log onto our
website at
www.cmdhd.org.**

Coming Soon...

**Seasonal flu clinic
schedules and
educational
information.**

Helpful Websites

www.cmdhd.org

www.michigan.gov/flu

www.cdc.gov/h1n1

www.ready.gov

www.pandemicflu.gov

www.henrythehand.com

www.immunize.org

Please Note:

H1N1Influenza
information/guidance
documents are updated
on MDCH and CDC
websites as new
information becomes
available.