



North Central District Health Department

Proudly Serving the Counties of:
Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce and Rock

Important Health Alert:

North Central District Health Department Contact: Peggy Hart, Disease Surveillance Coordinator, peggy@ncdhd.ne.gov or Concey Ramold, Emergency Response Coordinator, concey@ncdhd.ne.gov , 402-336-2406

December 1, 2009

Dear Parents/guardians:

As you may have heard, a new influenza virus, called the 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 gotten 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been large outbreaks in some schools across the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available. Other groups recommended to get the first available doses of the vaccine include:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services 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. North Central District Health Department is working with your child's school to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at school. We will be holding a vaccination clinic at **O'Neill Public Schools in O'Neill on Monday December 7, 2009 beginning at approximately 7:30 am**. We are including vaccine information statements along with the consent forms that need to be completed. NCDHD will be offering both the nasal spray and the injectable forms of vaccine. If you would like your child to be vaccinated, please complete the consent form and return it to school with your child on the day of the immunization clinic. If a consent form is not with your child at the clinic time, the vaccination will not be given to your child. We will also provide vaccinations for children 6 months and older who are not currently in school if parents bring them to the clinic along with vaccinations for school staff that fall into one of the priority groups listed above. Children 6 months through 9 years of age will need two doses of vaccine spaced about 3 weeks apart. There will be **no cost** to you for this vaccine.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call: 402-336-2406 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. 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 information especially for parents.

Sincerely,

Peggy Hart RN, BSN

422 East Douglas Street • O'Neill, Nebraska 68763

Phone: 402.336.2406 • Toll Free: 877.336.2406 • Fax: 402.336.1768 • Web site:
www.ncdhd.ne.gov