



**UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #377**  
**ATCHISON COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
*"Where Success is Measured One Student at a Time"*

**H1N1 FLU NOTICE TO USD 377 PARENTS**

Wednesday, September 30, 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.

The Atchison County Health Department is initiating plans to provide the 2009 H1N1 vaccine to USD 377 students at school. The Department of Health nursing supervisor has made a request for vaccine, but at this point in time we do not know how many vaccines will be allotted or when they will arrive. Once the H1N1 vaccine is on hand, we will let you know the specific date the vaccination clinic will be held. It is important that all parents read through the following information regarding H1N1 vaccinations and planned clinic:

- The Atchison County Health Department will provide vaccine to the students, PreK through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Plans are for Atchison County Health Department personnel to give all the PreK-12 vaccinations in one day at the JR/SR High gymnasium.
- Parents will be given a consent form to fill out and return to school that will be forwarded on to the school nurse. The consent form comes with a health history questionnaire for the parent to fill out that will help in determining if the child is at risk of further health problems by taking the vaccine.
- This is not a mandatory program, only a service the health department is offering FREE of charge for students whose parents have given their consent. A form will be sent home with students that will include options allowing you to either accept or refuse the vaccination for your child. If you refuse, the vaccination will not be given to your child.
- The nurses from the health department will be overseeing and giving all vaccinations.
- The emergency preparedness unit will be assisting in this endeavor.

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**

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506 6<sup>th</sup> Street ♦ Effingham, Kansas 66023 ♦ (913) 833-5050

- The school district will bus Pre-school and Primary School students, and in inclement weather Intermediate School students will be bused as well.
- More information will be provided to parents about the vaccine and the planned clinic once it becomes available.

Children are expected to 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 the Atchison County Health Department at: 913-367-5152/office hours are 8:00-noon and 1:00 – 4:00 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. Your child's health care provider also can answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and will be able to give your child the seasonal influenza vaccine and may be able to give your child the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.**

Sincerely,

Kathy Albers, School Nurse