



**SENECA COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**  
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*Marjorie S. Broadhead, MBA, RN, RS*  
*Health Commissioner*

Nov. 12, 2009

Dear Parents/guardians:

As you 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 outbreaks in many schools across the county. 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.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. The Seneca County General Health District 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 @ Old Fort Schools on Friday, Nov 20, beginning at 9 a.m. for students. Children under 10 years of age will need a second vaccination 4 weeks after the first. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.

The vaccine consent form includes 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. You can accept by:

Reading the informational packet which contains a "What You Need to Know" about the disease and the vaccine as well as completing the online pre-registration form available at: [www.senecahealthdept.org](http://www.senecahealthdept.org), **printing and signing and dating it** to accept vaccination for your child. If you do not have computer access you may pick up a copy of the consent form in the school office.

It is very important that you complete the consent questionnaire completely. This will help the nurses determine whether your child will receive the nasal mist or the injection. The majority of students will be receiving the nasal mist, however if your child has asthma, wheezes or has certain other pre-existing medical conditions they will receive the injection based on Center for Disease Control Guidelines, not personal preference.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call: 419-447-3691 from 8 a.m to 4 p.m. 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 more information especially for parents. You can also visit the Seneca County General Health District website at <http://www.senecahealthdept.org>. Your child's health care provider also can answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.