



September 15, 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 the 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been large outbreaks in some schools across the country. The Centers for Disease 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 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. Springbrook, under the direction of Dr. Tannenbaum our medical director, is recommending that an H1N1 influenza clinic be held here for all of our residents once this vaccination becomes readily available. We are working closely with our local health department as well as our pharmacy to see how we can obtain this vaccination so that it can be administered sometime this fall. The vaccine consists of 1 or 2 injections (given 3 weeks apart) depending on age group. The vaccine is administered intramuscularly.

The novel H1N1 vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine. It is intended to be used alongside the seasonal flu vaccine to protect people. Seasonal flu and novel H1N1 vaccines may be administered on the same day.

I have enclosed from the CDC "Seasonal and Novel H1N1 Flu: A guide for Parents," this is filled with basic information about the Seasonal and Novel H1N1 Flu.



You can also find more information:

www.flu.gov

www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/

If you wish your child to receive the H1N1 influenza vaccine should it become available for administration, please sign and return the enclosed consent form in the self addressed stamped envelope.

Sincerely,

Carol Krueger RN
Springbrook Residential School Program

Dr. Jordan Tannenbaum
Medical Director - Springbrook