



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
2325 Garfield Road North
Traverse City, MI 49686
Phone: 231-922-2700 fax: 231-922-4629
www.gtchd.org

October, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian

The vaccination program for the 2009 H1N1 influenza (also called Swine Flu) will begin soon in Grand Traverse County. Because it is very important for school age children to be protected from this new flu, Grand Traverse County Health Department is working closely with your child's school to provide special H1N1/Swine flu clinics for Grand Traverse County schools. Clinics are planned to begin the last week in October and run throughout November/December.

Here are some important issues for you to know:

- While we encourage all parents and guardians to immunize their children for the Swine/H1N1 Flu, it is not required. It is your choice.
- We will require that the parent or legal guardian sign a consent form to allow the Health Department to immunize your child for the Swine/H1N1 Flu.
- For children in elementary schools, it will be necessary for the parent to be present for the flu clinic. Children, 6th grade through 12th grade may receive the vaccine without the parent present but must have a consent form signed by the parent or guardian.
- This vaccine is produced just like the regular flu vaccine and it is safe and effective.
- Children under 10 years old need to get two shots for Swine/H1N1 Flu, each 3 weeks apart.
- Children 10 years and older need only one dose of the Swine/H1N1 Flu vaccine.
- If your child is allergic to eggs, he/she should not get the Swine/H1N1 Flu vaccine.
- There is no charge for the vaccine
- Check with your family doctor if you are not sure if your child should get immunized for the Swine/H1N1 Flu. You may also be able to receive the vaccine from your family doctor.
- There are two types of Swine/H1N1 Flu vaccine (the nasal spray and the injectable). Vaccine information sheets will come with the H1N1 Flu consent form. Vaccine availability and your child's health information will determine which form of vaccine your child may receive. These consent forms and vaccine information sheets will be distributed through your school and will also be available for parents at the clinic.

If you have any other question please call the Grand Traverse County Health Department Flu Info line @ 231-922- 2797 or check our web site at www.gtchd.org and check FLU INFORMATION FOR PARENTS icon.

Thank you,

Frederick Keeslar, Health Officer
Grand Traverse County Health Department