



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

October 5, 2009

Uma S. Ahluwalia
Director

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is suspending the 2009 school based *seasonal* flu vaccine campaign until further notice following the conclusion of the vaccination of Pre-K, Head Start and PEP students on October 6, 2009. This includes both first and second doses of seasonal FluMist (nasal vaccine) and Injectable flu vaccine. This decision was made after consideration of the following factors:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) report that 99% of the circulating influenza in Maryland is H1N1 influenza.
- Announcements by DHMH that the vaccine for H1N1 influenza will be available earlier than expected.
- Shipments of *seasonal* FluMist (nasal vaccine) to the county are not sufficient to continue the school based seasonal flu vaccine campaign.
- Continuing to administer FluMist, which is a live attenuated influenza vaccine, may delay the administration of 2009 H1N1 vaccine via nasal spray which is also a live attenuated vaccine, to those children who are in one of the first priority groups to receive the vaccine.

For the above reasons, under the advice of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, we are shifting our emphasis to the distribution of the H1N1 vaccine. Information about H1N1 clinics, which will be held at various locations in the county, will be provided as soon as the H1N1 vaccine is available.

However, if parents wish to obtain seasonal flu vaccines for their children, injectable seasonal flu vaccine will be available for students at the School Health Services Center, MCPS Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Rockville, MD 20852 on Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. and open to everyone at county flu clinics on October 31, at Silver Spring Health Center 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., on November 5, at Germantown Recreational Center 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. and on November 12, at University of Maryland, Shady Grove, 4 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Please continue to practice general precautions for prevention of flu by covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands frequently; and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. It is important to stay at home when sick with flu-like symptoms (fever 100 F or greater with a cough and/or sore throat). Children should be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. If you have questions, please contact your school nurse.

Sincerely,

Ulder J. Tillman, M.D., M.P.H.

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Public Health Services