



Office of the Health Officer

November 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The PGCHD is offering **free** Influenza A H1N1 (swine flu) vaccinations to your school-aged child. **School-aged children are at a high risk of being exposed to and becoming sick from this flu virus.** Most children in the United States exposed to this H1N1 influenza virus during the past eight months have experienced only minor “flu-like” symptoms. Unfortunately, other children in the United States exposed to the H1N1 virus have developed moderate to severe flu-like symptoms requiring more extensive treatments. Receiving an H1N1 vaccination is an effective method of preventing an H1N1 flu virus infection and its complications.

The PGCHD is currently using two forms of the Influenza A H1N1 vaccine. The first is a LIVE ATTENUATED (weakened live virus) mist that is sprayed in the nose. The second is the H1N1 INJECTABLE (killed virus) vaccine. Neither of these vaccines are for regular seasonal flu virus.

The H1N1 flu vaccine offered will be provided at no cost to you. Please read the attached Vaccination Information Sheets on the intranasal, “Live, Intranasal Influenza H1N1 Vaccine 2009-2010” and on the injectable, “Inactivated Influenza H1N1 Vaccine 2009-2010”.

IF YOUR CHILD...	VACCINE ELIGIBILITY/FORMS TO BE COMPLETED
...is healthy and not pregnant	He/she may be eligible for either the intranasal or the injectable vaccine. Review both the “School Influenza A H1N1 Intranasal Spray Vaccine Consent” form and the “School Influenza A H1N1 Injectable Vaccine” form.
...is healthy, has a chronic medical condition or is pregnant, or at risk for becoming pregnant	Your child may be eligible for the injectable vaccine. Review the “School Consent for 2009 H1N1 Influenza Injectable Vaccine” form.

Based on vaccine availability, walk-in PGCHD H1N1 vaccinations for those in the priority groups will be offered every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Prince George’s Sports and Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover MD 20785. The PGCHD is arranging additional community-based, evening and weekend H1N1 vaccination clinics. Go to [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/health](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/health) for weekly Health Department flu vaccination clinic sites.

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this offer for your child to receive a **free** H1N1 vaccination. If you have questions, concerns, or would like more H1N1 information: 1) Go to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention website: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu); 2) contact your child’s doctor; 3) Call the Health Department Healthline at 1-888-561-4049; 4) Speak to your private school administrator and/or nursing staff; 5) Go to the Google Flu Shot Finder website at [www.google.com/flushot](http://www.google.com/flushot) to find H1N1 vaccination sites near you.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation in assuring that your child’s health remains as healthy as possible during the 2009-2010 flu season.

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