



PACIFIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
National Historic Site

# PACIFIC COUNTY

## Public Health and Human Services Department

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October 1, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may have heard, a new flu 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 large outbreaks in some schools across the country. 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. Other groups recommended to get the first available doses of the vaccine include:

- o Pregnant women
- o People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- o Health care and emergency medical services workers, and
- o 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. The Pacific County Health Department is working with your child's school to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at school. We will hold vaccination clinics beginning this fall, and your child's school will let you know the specific dates once vaccine is on hand. School staff will send you more information about the disease and the vaccine. They will also send you a form that will include 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.

Children under age ten are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced about 3 weeks apart. Older children will likely need just one shot. Only the inactivated influenza vaccine injections will be available at school -- not the live-virus form of vaccine administered by nasal spray. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine. Immunizations will be administered by experienced nurses under the supervision of the health department.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, contact your local school or the health department. 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 information especially for parents. Your child's health care provider can also answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and may be able to give your child either the 2009 H1N1 vaccine injection or vaccine nasal spray.

Sincerely,

James Edstam MD MPH  
Pacific County Health Officer

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
Willapa Harbor Area (360) 875-9343  
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