

PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

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DuWayne O. Porter, M.P.H., R.S.
Health Commissioner

Dear Parent,

October 1, 2009

By now you have been hearing a lot about the H1N1 (swine flu). Your child's school has been working closely with the Portage County Health Department to provide you with the most current information.

H1N1 Influenza:

There are several confirmed cases of H1N1 flu in our area. It will or is already in your child's school. H1N1 influenza is very similar to the regular influenza we see each year. The main difference is that; no one has any protection from previous immunity and it is very easy to spread from person to person. It is important for you to stress to your children;

- To wash their hands as often as possible; hand sanitizers are good too
- COVER their coughs with tissues or use their elbow not their hands
- DO NOT COME to school sick

H1N1 Vaccine:

Children in grades K-12 have been identified as a high priority to receive the H1N1 vaccine this fall. The Portage County Health Department will offer this vaccine in your child's school.

- The vaccine will be **FREE** to anyone wanting their child to get the shot at school.
- This is not required, but strongly recommended.
- A letter with a permission form will be sent home once school clinics are scheduled in your child's school.
- School clinics are planned for the end of October or the beginning of November.
- Children 10 years and under will need two shots. Both will be available through school.

If you have any questions regarding the above information please visit our influenza website at www.co.portage.oh.us/H1N1.htm or call the H1N1 information line at (330) 672-6601.

Sincerely,

Angela DeJulius, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Portage County Health Department