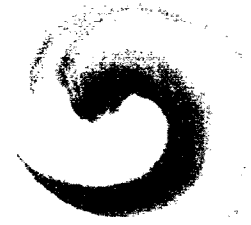


Rice County Health Department  
1486 Highway 56  
P.O. Box 535  
Lyons, KS 67554



Prevent ▲ Promote ▲ Protect

November 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may have heard, a new influenza 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 these high risk groups to get the first available doses of the vaccine:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services workers
- Children aged 6 months to 4 years old
- Children 5-18 years with chronic medical conditions

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. The local health department is working with your child's school to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine. Included with this letter is a form with options allowing you to accept or refuse the H1N1 vaccination for your child. You must sign and date the consent form to accept vaccination for your child; if you decline, the vaccination will not be given to your child. The consent form must be returned to the school whether you accept or decline vaccination. If at any time you change your mind about having your child vaccinated, you can notify the school principal or nurse and your consent will be marked "Declined."

Children younger than ten will need two doses of vaccine spaced about 4 weeks apart. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinic, please call: 620-257-2171 from 8 AM to 5 PM. In addition, please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> for information especially for parents.

Sincerely,

*Marci Leake*

Marci Leake, Administrator



Public Health