"A Great Place to Learn"

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 232 • 39 Bank Street S.E. • Chatham, VA 24531

Mr. James E. McDaniel
Division Superintendent

October 15, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

On or about September 8, 2009, you received a letter from this office indicating what you can do to protect your child from contracting novel influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu). The purpose of this communication is to inform you that Pittsylvania County Schools and the Pittsylvania-Danville Health District will be offering **free of charge** the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine at your child's school.

Student participation in the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccination program at the school clinic is strictly **voluntary**. I have included some very important information for you to consider should you decide for your child to be a participant.

- Read, complete and return the **Student 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccination Consent Form** to your child's school by **Wednesday, October 21, 2009**.
- Should you have questions regarding the consent form, please contact Nichole Moon (434-432-7232, ext. 247), Karen Brown (434-766-9826) or the State H1N1 Hotline (1-877-275-8343).
- Elementary school students in grades 3–5 and ALL middle and high school students who have returned a consent form will have the vaccinations administered during the school day .
- Pre-K, kindergarten, first and second grade students will have the vaccinations administered from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. and again between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Parents of pre-K, kindergarten, first and second grade students who return the consent form will be contacted by school officials to confirm the date and time of your child's appointment to receive the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine. **It is imperative that pre-K, kindergarten, first and second grade students have a working telephone number listed on the consent form in order for this appointment to be made.**
- **Parents of pre-K, kindergarten, first and second grade students must be present for their child to receive the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine.**
- Children under ten (10) years of age will need two (2) doses of the H1N1 vaccine. Each dose will be administered approximately one (1) month apart. **The second dose will be administered at the school clinic. Further scheduling information will be made available at the appropriate time.**
- Your child may receive the mist or the shot (depending upon availability of the vaccine). Parents are requested to read and review both of the vaccine (inactivated – flu shot and live, attenuated – nasal spray) fact sheets attached. Should you have questions please contact Nichole Moon (434-432-7232, ext. 247), Karen Brown (434-766-9826) or the State H1N1 Hotline (1-877-275-8343).

- Parents will be given a minimum of a 24-hour notice prior to the vaccine being administered at their child's school. This notification will be made through the AlertNow System. The specific timeframe will be contingent upon the availability of the vaccine.

- If for some reason (absent from school, overly anxious or emotionally distraught about receiving the shot, etc.) your child is unable to receive the H1N1 vaccine, the consent form will be returned to the parent.

- Make-up sessions will be scheduled at the four (4) middle schools for students. Dates and times for these sessions will be provided at a later time.

- The vaccine will also be available from doctors' offices, the health department and other venues at a later date.

We appreciate your help in slowing the spread of this virus and keeping our children safe and healthy. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact your local health department (http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/lhd/) or call 1-877-ASK-VDH3.

Respectfully,

James E. McDaniel
Division Superintendent