

TO: Parents

SUBJECT: Upcoming H1N1 Flu Vaccinations

Dear Parent:

I hope you are doing well. Since the beginning of the school year, Charleston County School District (CCSD) has been working with you to keep children safe, healthy, and learning. A vaccine is now available for “Novel H1N1 Flu” (often called the “Swine Flu”). Medical experts say that vaccination is the best way to protect children against the flu. The South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) **will offer H1N1 flu shots for CCSD students in Kindergarten through twelfth grade, and there will be no charge for this service.**

However, you must grant permission for this to happen. There is a consent form from DHEC that must be completed if you would like DHEC to vaccinate your child against the H1N1 flu. **Please sign and return the consent form to your school by the date your school will specify.**

There are several important points to be made about the vaccinations. The shots will be given during the school day. On vaccination day, students should wear clothes that will make it easy to give the shot; some young students with very small arm muscles may get the shot in their thigh muscle; and students who are unwilling to be vaccinated will not be vaccinated (we will not force this on students). Finally, children less than 10 years of age need two doses of the vaccine against the H1N1 virus. The two doses must be given at least 21 days apart. For students that need a second dose, a second flu shot will be offered by DHEC at the school.

If you have *any* questions about the H1N1 flu vaccine, please call your primary health care provider or the **DHEC Flu Hotline at 1-800-27-SHOTS (1-800-277-4687)**. You also have the option of calling **953-0090** to schedule a free appointment at a clinic. Thank you for your cooperation, and for working with us ensure the safety and well-being of your child.

Sincerely,

Charleston County School District