



ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TAYLOR EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX
200 DAILEY DRIVE
ORANGE, VIRGINIA 22960
www.ocss-va.org
540-661-4550 Fax 540-661-4599

November 10, 2009

Dear Parents, Guardians and Employees:

One of my duties as Director of Special Education is to provide primary oversight of our school division's health services programs. With this letter, I will assume the school division's role as primary communicator of our efforts to manage the spread of the H1N1 virus.

The health district's H1N1 flu vaccination program continued this past week when shots and nasal mist applications were administered at Locust Grove Elementary School on Friday, November 6.

If you (or your child) are one of the 21 million Americans who has compromising health issues (such as asthma, a suppressed immune system, a muscle or nerve disorder, diabetes or disease of the lungs, heart or kidneys) the injected vaccine is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control as the preferred vaccine choice. Please refer to your medical professional if you have underlying health issues or any question about the vaccination and your personal health.

The nationwide shortage of vaccine continues to make it difficult for the health district to establish a timetable for future clinics in our schools. The health district is receiving a larger supply of the FluMist vaccine than the injectable, and they have advised that they are unable to vaccinate an entire school without an adequate amount of both types of vaccines. The health district has announced that they will be offering a H1N1 "FluMist only" vaccination clinic at the Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11. This clinic is open to healthy children and young adults (ages 2 to 24), and healthy persons 49 years old and younger who live in a household with infants under 6 months of age.

As of now, we can only confirm that clinics will be held in all our schools. Depending on vaccine quantity and school numbers of permission slips received, we hope to follow the Locust Grove Elementary School clinic with this suggested schedule:

- a. Gordon-Barbour Elementary School and the TEAC Head Start & Alternative Education Program
- b. Orange Elementary School
- c. Locust Grove Middle School
- d. Prospect Heights Middle School
- e. Orange County High School

As reported by our Superintendent last week, some parents have had their children vaccinated by the health department or by some other health care provider. **It remains**

The Orange County School Board does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, age, religion, national origin or disability in its employment practices or educational program and activities. Compliance inquiries should be directed to the Human Resources Officer, 200 Dailey Drive, Orange, VA 22960 or by phone at 540-661-4550.

very important that parents inform the school nurse and/or the school principal if their child already has received the H1N1 vaccination. Although the health department maintains an effective system for tracking vaccinations, no system is foolproof. We must work together to make sure that no child receives a double dose of the vaccine. While there is no danger associated with double doses, we are advised that the administration of two doses of any flu vaccine within five days may render the second dose ineffective.

The following chart shows the number of cases of flu-like illness reported in Orange County Public Schools for the week of November 2-6, 2009. This was another four-day week as our students were not in school on election day, Tuesday, November 3.

School	Total Enrollment	Total Reports of Influenza for the week ending 11-6-09
Gordon-Barbour Elem	381	5
Lightfoot Elementary	298	2
Locust Grove Elementary	653	38
Locust Grove Middle	826	2
OCHS	1,584	14
Orange Elementary	573	9
Prospect Heights Middle	498	18
Unionville Elementary	297	5
Total	5,110	93

Remember to maintain plans for childcare at home if your child becomes ill or cannot go to school for a week or longer. For information on how to care for a sick person at home and for other questions about flu, contact your health care provider or local health department; visit this website: www.vdh.virginia.gov; or call 1-877-ASK-VDH3 or 1-(877) 275-8343.

Sincerely,



Jan Carpenter, M.S.Ed
 Director, Special Education