



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

October 27, 2009

Dear Parents, Guardians and Employees:

Despite critical nationwide shortages of H1N1 flu vaccine, Orange County students have started to benefit from the health department's vaccination program. On Friday, October 23, health department officials administered 124 vaccines to students and staff of Unionville Elementary School.

The availability of vaccine remains a critical concern and the timing of future vaccination clinics will be very difficult to predetermine. It is possible that we may not be advised of a forthcoming clinic until late in the day prior to the event. Rest assured that we will do everything possible to inform parents prior to the administration of vaccines in your child's school. However, we will not deny vaccine to any child based on the absence of prior notification. As long as we are in possession of your child's signed consent form, we will proceed to provide your child with vaccine if it is made available. Everyone is encouraged to visit the Orange County Public Schools website at www.ocss-va.org for updates on upcoming vaccination clinics. The next clinic will be held at Lightfoot Elementary School with the remainder scheduled as follows:

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

We have received some inquiries from parents and the media regarding the percentage of families that have given consent for their children to be vaccinated. The responses to the H1N1 vaccination clinic offered at each school have been tallied with the following results:

School	Enrollment	# Vaccinations Requested	% Requesting Vaccinations	% Not Requesting Vaccinations
Gordon-Barbour Elementary	381	180	47.24%	52.76%
Lightfoot Elementary	298	147	48.33%	51.67%
Locust Grove Elementary	653	329	50.38%	49.62%
Locust Grove Middle	826	379	45.88%	54.12%
Orange County High	1,584	550	34.72%	65.28
Orange Elementary	573	290	50.61%	49.39%
Prospect Heights Middle	498	160	32.13%	67.87%
Unionville Elementary	297	163	54.88%	45.12%
Total	5,110	2,198	43.01%	56.99%

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.

In an effort to keep parents, staff, and the community informed, the following chart shows the number of cases of flu-like illnesses reported in Orange County Public Schools for the week of October 19 – 23, 2009:

School	Total Enrollment	Total Reports of Influenza for the week ending October 23, 2009
Gordon-Barbour Elementary	381	5
Lightfoot Elementary	298	1
Locust Grove Elementary	653	101
Locust Grove Middle	826	32
Orange County High School	1,584	66
Orange Elementary	573	16
Prospect Heights Middle	498	21
Unionville Elementary	297	10
Total	5,110	252

In the table of above, you may notice that very distinctive patterns have emerged. After reaching their peaks earlier this month, the rates of flu-like illness at Unionville, Lightfoot and Gordon-Barbour appear to have declined substantially. Locust Grove Elementary appears to have reached a peak, so we hope that its rate will begin to decline in the coming week or so. Our overall division-wide increase was driven by the spike at Locust Grove Elementary. Relatively speaking, the rates at Orange County High School, Locust Grove Middle, Orange Elementary and Prospect Heights have remained at moderate to low levels. In all cases of flu-like illness, our school nurses work with parents to ensure that measures are taken to ensure that the infected students remain out of school until they have been cleared to return by their health care provider.

As always, I conclude with the following review of the steps that are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Most people who get any form of influenza, including H1N1, recover without any treatment or special care. However, influenza can cause serious illness in some people, especially those with other health problems. Children and adults who develop a fever of at least 100°F and a cough or sore throat should call their doctor, especially if they are at higher risk of complications from influenza.
- Flu viruses spread from person to person through coughing or sneezing. Parents can help protect others by keeping their sick children at home or away from others until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100°F) or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. They can also encourage the use of good cough and hand hygiene etiquette.
- Because influenza has caused illness in our school community, persons who are at higher risk of complications from influenza should consider calling their healthcare providers to discuss whether any additional precautions are advised.
- Students and staff who are well may attend school, even if others at home are sick, but they should stay at home as soon as they develop signs of illness.

Remember also 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,



Robert P. Grimesey, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent