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H1N1 Update

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please be advised that the Central Connecticut Health District is working closely with each of the four public school districts, and private schools, to ensure that the appropriate response is provided regarding the H1N1 (Swine flu) outbreak.

Each school district is recording and tracking absenteeism, both students and staff, particularly those associated with influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI includes a fever (100°F+) and either sore throat or cough. Students and staff reporting ILI are advised NOT to return to school for at least 24 hours after fever is gone, provided they are not using fever reducing medicine.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), along with the CT Department of Public Health, have developed response protocols that are being followed in each school district. In addition to ILI monitoring and tracking, school maintenance staff is routinely cleaning and sanitizing school buildings—paying special attention to surfaces frequently touched. Several guidance documents have been created and are available on the Central Connecticut Health District web site, www.ccthd.org. Additional links are also available for the CDC, www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu, and the CT Department of Public Health at www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch.

Vaccination Update

H1N1 vaccine supply is limited. The Health District intends to offer H1N1 vaccination clinics at schools, after school hours, once the vaccine supply increases likely in November. School districts are distributing a pre-registration form that we will use when we schedule clinics and send out invitations.

The Health District has begun scheduling public, reservation only, H1N1 clinics to serve the people within the current priority groups. Depending upon the type of vaccine received, clinics are being offered to the following priority groups:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants less than 6 months of age
- Children aged 6 months through 4 years of age for injectable vaccine
- Children aged 2 years through 6 years of age (for nasal spray vaccine only)
- Children age 5 through 18 with chronic medical condition such as asthma or diabetes.

Individuals that fall within one of these priority groups may call our H1N1 clinic registration number at (860)721-2815.

Sincerely,

Paul Hutcheon, M.P.H., R.S.
Director of Health