

October 20, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Keeping students healthy and in school is important for their education. With flu season upon us, our school district has decided to offer H1N1flu vaccinations to students in our system. This decision was made based on the recommendations of the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

We will be holding an **H1N1flu clinic** on **Friday, October 30, 2009** at the **Fire Station Community Room**. This clinic will take place during the school day. Vaccine will be administered to those students who are able to receive it without significant distress who have completed parent consent forms.

POND COVE STUDENTS GRADES K-4 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR TRUSTED ADULT WHO WILL BE ABLE TO COMFORT YOUR CHILD, IF NEEDED, AS HE/SHE RECEIVES THE VACCINE. We are unable to offer vaccines to preschool-age children. We are also unable to serve school-age students who attend another school system. Children under the age of 10 will need to have a second dose three or more weeks after the first dose. A second clinic will be held at a later date for the second dose. Children older than age 10 will receive only one dose.

Adult vaccinations will not be available at this clinic.

There will be two options for vaccinations, depending on vaccine supplies at the time of the clinic. Healthy children will receive FluMist, again depending upon availability. FluMist is a gentle, pain-free mist that is sprayed into the nose. Please refer to the attached CDC Vaccine Information Statement for more information about FluMist.

Some people cannot receive FluMist and should get an injection. This includes children with asthma or active wheezing, people with a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome, people with a weakened immune system, people with long-term medical conditions such as heart disease, kidney disease, and diabetes, and pregnant women. If your consent form indicates that your child cannot receive FluMist, they will receive the injection, again depending upon availability at the time of our clinic. Please refer to the attached CDC Vaccine Information Sheet for more information on the H1N1 shot.

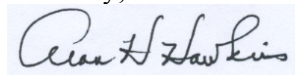
If you would like your child to receive a flu vaccine at school, please completely fill out the attached consent form and return it to school BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 26. Again, this is H1N1 vaccine at this time.

The vaccine is being provided by the State of Maine and the Federal Government. **PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR INSURANCE INFORMATION** SO THAT OUR PROVIDER, HOME HEALTH VISITING NURSES CAN BILL FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR THEIR SERVICES. **DO NOT SEND PAYMENT FOR THIS VACCINE CLINIC.** Please call your child's school nurse if you have any questions.

If you would like to learn more about influenza, please go to www.maine-flu.gov or www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/ or www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents. There is also a toll free information line 1-888-257-0990 where professionals are available to answer your questions Monday through Friday 9am – 5pm.

If you have specific questions, please contact your child's healthcare provider.

Sincerely,



Alan H. Hawkins
Superintendent