



## COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

# PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ROBIN HODGKIN, M.P.A.  
*Director*

STEPHEN W. MUNDAY, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.  
*Health Officer*

October 30, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you may be aware, a new strain of influenza, called 2009 H1N1 influenza virus (previously referred to swine flu), was first identified in our community in late April 2009. While the majority of cases in Imperial County have been mild, the virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths throughout the United States. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. The H1N1 vaccine is highly recommended for children, however H1N1 vaccination is voluntary and not a prerequisite for school attendance.

The Imperial County Public Health Department, in collaboration with school officials and local healthcare agencies, are working to make the 2009 H1N1 vaccine available at schools sites throughout Imperial County for children who are in elementary and junior high/middle school. Many community clinics, private physicians and pediatricians throughout the County have H1N1 vaccine and will continue to receive shipments throughout the season. The school district clinics are being offered as another option and as a way to assist local providers in making the vaccine available to children.

The school based clinics are expected to start mid November and continue throughout the flu season. Your child's school will provide you with information regarding date, time and location for your child's clinic, as soon as it is scheduled. There is no cost for the vaccine at the school district clinics. Plans to extend vaccine to other priority groups, including those attending high school and college are in process and will be announced as more vaccine becomes available.

The number of vaccines made available to each district clinic will be determined based on the number of students enrolled in that school district. Therefore it is important for you to understand, that in order for your child to receive a vaccine at a school district clinic, you will need to attend the clinic in the district in which your child is enrolled.

Others who are also part of the high priority groups such as pregnant women and persons age 25 through 64 who have health conditions, and parents who are unable to bring their child to a school district clinic, are encouraged to contact their health care provider/pediatrician.

For more information on the school district clinics, please call (760) 482-4968.

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Munday, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.  
Health Officer