



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
David M. Steiner, Ph.D.  
Commissioner



NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Richard F. Daines, M.D.  
Commissioner

TO: District Superintendents  
Public and Nonpublic School Administrators  
Charter School Administrators  
Directors of School-Based Health Clinics  
Directors of Article 28 Facilities  
Local Health Department Officials

FROM: Commissioner David M. Steiner, Ph.D., New York State Education Department  
Commissioner Richard F. Daines, M.D., New York State Department of Health

SUBJECT: School-Based Vaccination Clinics for 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus

DATE: November 17, 2009

The New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of Health continue their joint efforts to provide educational institutions in New York State (outside of New York City) with guidance on the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, including ways to reduce the transmission and spread of the virus.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is concerned that the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus has already resulted in a particularly severe influenza season this year. To date, the highest incidence of 2009 H1N1 influenza infection is in school-aged children and more hospitalizations have been seen in younger individuals than are usually seen with seasonal flu. In addition to being at high risk for infection and complications, children play a significant role in the spread of influenza in the community. The virus spreads easily in settings such as day care centers and schools where children spend several hours every day in close contact with each other. Vaccination will reduce the likelihood of outbreaks that may lead to disruptive school dismissals and reduce transmission from schools into homes and the community.

The need to immunize a large number of children in a short period of time has prompted the consideration of school-based vaccination clinics. These voluntary school-based vaccination clinics will be coordinated with entities authorized by New York State, primarily local health departments. Vaccination providers will utilize local facilities (e.g., schools, community centers) to administer the 2009 H1N1 vaccine to students, staff, and possibly other community members who fall within the CDC recommended target groups.

The guidance that follows is designed to assist schools in partnering with vaccination providers to host a 2009 H1N1 vaccination clinic at their school. The guidance provides suggestions on ways in which a school community may assist in helping to ensure a successful clinic.

For more information, please contact your local department of health or the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Immunization at 518-473-4437.