



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mount Clemens Health Center

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macombcountymi.gov/publichealth

Thomas J. Kalkofen
Director/Health Officer

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Kevin P. Lokar, M.D.
Medical Director

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that children 6 months through 18 years of age, in addition to other groups of people, be vaccinated against the new H1N1 ("swine flu") influenza virus as soon as a vaccine becomes available. As you may have heard, this new influenza virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe and has caused hospitalizations in both adults and children. Because children do not have immunity to this virus, they have been most affected by it and are considered at high risk of infection. As the U.S. begins its fall and winter flu season, the CDC is concerned that this virus may cause more illness, which may be severe in some cases. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease.

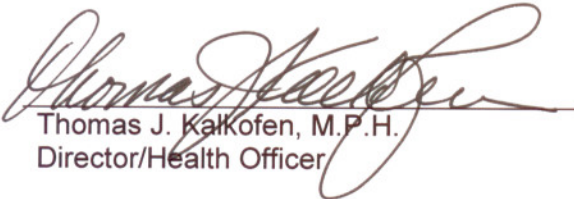
The Macomb County Health Department is working with your child's school to offer the new H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at school. We will hold vaccination clinics beginning this fall and your child's school will provide specific dates once vaccine is available. High school and middle school clinics will be conducted during the school day. Combined preschool and elementary school clinics will be conducted during the evenings and on the weekends. Preschool and elementary school parents must be with their children at the time of vaccination.

School officials will send you an informational packet which will likely be sent home with your child or will be available at the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) website at www.misd.net. This packet will contain information about the disease and the vaccine, as well as a consent form that you must sign to accept vaccination for your child. Vaccine will not be given to your child without your written consent.

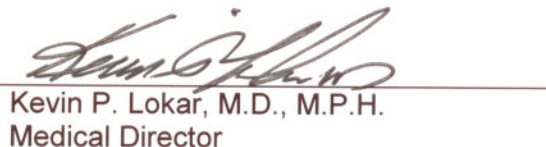
Children are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced 3 or more weeks apart. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine if you choose to have your child vaccinated.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the clinics, please contact the Macomb County Health Department at (586) 466-7923. You may also visit the CDC's novel H1N1 influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents/> for information for parents. Additionally, your child's healthcare provider can answer your questions about the new H1N1 virus, and the need for your child to be vaccinated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Kalkofen, M.P.H.
Director/Health Officer



Kevin P. Lokar, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director

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