



Genesee County Health Department

John D. McKellar, M.P.A., Acting Health Officer
Gary K. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director

<http://www.gchd.us>

Floyd J. McCree Courts & Human Services Building
630 S. Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan, 48502-1540
Phone: 810-257-3612
Fax: 810-257-3147

Community Health
Phone: 810-257-3612
Fax: 810-257-3147

Environmental Health
Phone: 810-257-3603
Fax: 810-257-3125

Personal Health
Phone: 810-257-3132
Fax: 810-237-6162

Burton Branch
G-3373 S. Saginaw St.
Burton, Michigan 48529
Phone: 810-742-2255
Fax: 810-742-2561

McCree North Health Center
115 E. Pierson Rd.
Flint, Michigan 48505
Phone: 810-600-2400
Fax: 810-785-9675

September 8, 2009

Dear Parent:

There are two types of influenza (flu) to be concerned about this year. The first type is the seasonal flu that happens every fall and winter. The second type is the novel H1N1 flu that began last spring. Novel H1N1 flu has caused mild to severe illness and hospitalizations in both adults and children. Children are one of the groups that have been most affected by this virus. The virus spreads easily among children, and they are at high risk for infection.

There are many things you can do to keep your child healthy and assure that schools in Genesee County remain open and functioning normally this flu season. Get your child vaccinated against both seasonal and novel H1N1 flu. It is important for your child to get both vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend both vaccines for all children 6 months through 18 years of age. Obtaining both seasonal and novel H1N1 flu vaccines helps to prevent the spread of flu in our schools and community.

Seasonal and novel H1N1 flu vaccines will be widely available in the community. Check to see if your health care provider offers the two vaccines. The two vaccines will also be available at the Genesee County Health Department, many pharmacies, and at special vaccination clinics. Watch for clinic dates, times, and locations to be publicized when they become available.

If you suspect your child has the flu, do not send him or her to school or anywhere else, such as group childcare, the mall, or sporting events, where your child could spread the flu to others. Keep your sick child home as long as it takes until he or she is free of fever for at least 24 hours without taking any fever medicine.

Teach your child how to avoid getting and spreading flu viruses.

- Wash hands often. Wash with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitizer gels and rubs with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve, not into your hands!
- Keep hands out of your eyes, nose and mouth. That's how germs get into the body.

The CDC is not recommending closing schools to prevent the spread of the flu, but schools may be dismissed if too many students or teachers are absent. School leaders and the Genesee County Health Department are closely monitoring the novel H1N1 flu situation and will inform parents as soon as possible if a school needs to be dismissed. Plan ahead now and decide who will care for your child if school is dismissed. If school is dismissed, students should not gather together elsewhere, but rather stay home to avoid exposing other people.

Get the most up-to-date flu information on the Genesee County Health Department website: www.gchd.us/HotTopics/H1N1.asp

Thank you for doing your part to keep Genesee County healthy!

John D. McKellar, M.P.A.
Acting Health Officer

Gary K. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director

Better Life Through Better Health