



October 8, 2009

Board Member:

**RE: SCHOOL-BASED H1N1 VACCINE CAMPAIGN**

**Background Information:**

As the time of year enters the flu season, much attention and energy have been directed to what is now called the novel H1N1 influenza virus, previously referred to as the swine flu. Unlike typical seasonal flu viruses, what makes the present strain of H1N1 novel is its potential for significant impact on young people, particularly those who are school-aged.

The vaccine for the novel H1N1 was only recently released for public use and is soon to arrive for distribution by the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). Now that the vaccine is available, CCDPH strongly recommends that school-aged individuals, and those in other risk categories, have access to the vaccine. The CCDPH has proposed a school-based vaccination campaign. In short, their mission is to take the vaccine to where the students are.

The proposed school-based campaign endeavors to utilize our schools as the designated locations for administering the novel H1N1 vaccinations to our students. In addition, any staff member who is under 24 years of age, or who is pregnant or who has a chronic medical condition (asthma, diabetes, etc.) may also receive the vaccination. In order for a student to receive the vaccine, the student's parent must submit written consent authorizing the student to be inoculated with the H1N1 vaccine.

The CCDPH has identified a time line by which communities will have access to the vaccine. Schools in designated zip codes will have the opportunity to serve as designated locations for students to receive the vaccination. The schools in the community of Palatine have been designated as one of the first to have access to the vaccine. The CCDPH projected that the vaccines would be available approximately October 29, 2009. The other schools in the District would have access the vaccine in the weeks following.

Each school district that chooses to partner with the CCDPH in order to vaccinate students in the district must enter into an agreement with the CCPDH. This document is referred to as the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and establishes the terms for both the CCDPH and the partnering school district. The federal government has declared that the H1N1 influenza pandemic constitutes a public health emergency. Such a declaration provides immunity from tort liability under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act.

**Recommendation:**

The novel H1N1 influenza virus poses risk to the students and staff in Township High School District 211. After multiple meetings and consultations with the Cook County Department of Public Health and after thoroughly reviewing all aspects of the matter relative to legal liability, logistics and personnel, the District has the opportunity to offer parents the choice of obtaining a vaccination that may prevent students from acquiring the H1N1 virus. It is my recommendation that the District work with the CCDPH to avail the high schools in District 211 in order to make this opportunity available to District 211 students and those staff who may access the vaccine.

**Suggested Motion:**

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with the Cook County Department of Public Health as described in the Memorandum of Agreement Between Township High School District 211 and the Cook County Department of Public Health for the Cook County Department of Public Health Fall 2009 H1N1 Vaccination Program.

Nancy N. Robb  
Superintendent