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**Michael Kohlhagen**  
Superintendent of Schools

November 2, 2009

### **H1N1 Update from Michael Kohlhagen, Superintendent of Schools:**

Dear Parents, Community Members, Families, and Staff,

We continue to manage the current national health issues here in Wethersfield with vigilance, care and concern for our entire school community. We remain in constant contact with our local Central Connecticut Health District and continue to follow current guidelines and recommended actions from the State and Federal level.

As you know, last year, our school system was closed with only one suspected case of H1N1. Policy and recommendations have changed dramatically since last spring. The District is monitoring for influenza like illness. Currently we do not receive information from the medical community confirming cases of H1N1 and are advised against notification of identified cases.

Current practice advises against school closings unless absenteeism rates rise to unusually high levels that limit the ability to conduct a regular school day. While schools and school districts have opted to close over the past few weeks, those school closings have been the result of student and staff absentee rates climbing over thirty percent or more.

I am happy to inform you that to date, Wethersfield School District absentee rate has not climbed above 10% and we continue to monitor school attendance rates daily. We continue to practice all appropriate preventative measures including regular cleaning of our facilities, availability of necessary cleaning materials as well as antibacterial soap and hand sanitizers for student and staff use.

We will continue to share guidance from the Central Connecticut Health District on our website. For parents requesting additional information, the Central Connecticut Health District will sponsor a forum at Silas Deane Middle School on Monday, November 9, 2009 at 7 pm. Information on updated immunization availability from the Central Connecticut Health District is currently posted on our website at <http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us/>

Please continue to practice good hygiene; we thank all of our families for following the State and Federal recommendations and using appropriate judgment by keeping ill students at home as a preventative measure.

I wish you and your family continued good health. Please contact your school nurse or the Central Connecticut Health District for any health related questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Kohlhagen".

Michael Kohlhagen  
Superintendent of Schools

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## Health District Accepting Registration for H1N1 Vaccinations

The Central Connecticut Health District is accepting registrations for novel H1N1 vaccination clinics. Due to the limited supply of vaccine at this time, only people at highest risk of developing influenza-related complications are eligible to register for vaccinations.

Registrations are only being accepted from individuals that are within one of the identified priority groups as noted below.

Injected vaccine will be available for the following priority groups:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants less than 6 months of age
- All children aged 6 months through 4 years.
- Children age 5 through 18 years of age with high risk medical conditions
- School nurses

Nasal mist vaccine will be available for the following priority groups:

- healthy children aged 2 through 18 years
- healthy household contacts and caregivers (who are 49 years old and younger) who care for infants who are 6 months of age or younger

(NOTE: Nasal mist is **NOT** available for people with: chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, heart or lung conditions, kidney or liver disease, anemia or other blood disorders, cerebral palsy, weakened immune systems; women who are pregnant; anyone in close contact with a person with a severely weakened immune system; children or adolescents on long-term aspirin treatment.)

Residents of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield who fall into any of the above targeted categories and who would like to receive the H1N1 vaccination are invited to register with the Health District. Registration is by telephone only; call 860-721-2815 and provide **ALL** requested information. Those who are registered for the vaccine will be notified of clinic time and date on a first come, first serve basis. We expect to hold clinics regularly as vaccine arrives.

We ask members of the public who do not fall into these categories and who want to receive this vaccine to be patient until more vaccine becomes available. It is expected there will be enough vaccine available for anyone who wishes to receive it. For additional information about influenza or other public health topics, call the Central Connecticut Health District at 860-721-2822 or visit our web site at [www.ccthd.org](http://www.ccthd.org).