

# MILLTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Milltown, New Jersey 08850 – 1643

[www.milltownps.org](http://www.milltownps.org)

Linda A. Madison, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Principal, Parkview School  
80 Violet Terrace  
(732) 214-2365  
(732) 214-2360  
FAX: (732) 214-2376

Janet S. Ferlazzo  
Principal, Joyce Kilmer School  
21 West Church Street  
(732) 214-2370  
FAX: (732) 214-2378

Loriann Dekovics  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Milltown Board of Education  
80 Violet Terrace  
(732) 214-2365  
FAX: (732) 249-7985

Margaret V. Csaszar  
Director of Student Support Services  
Joyce Kilmer School  
21 West Church Street  
(732) 214-2365  
FAX: (732) 214-2377

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may have heard, a new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many children have gotten the 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been large outbreaks in some schools across the country. The following information should be kept handy for future reference.

The Milltown School District has been closely following the recommendations from The NJ Department of Education, The Middlesex County Department of Health, and The Centers for Disease Control with regard to H1N1 (swine) flu. The district is cooperating with their recommendations to assist in the effort of preventing our children from becoming infected with this virus. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that children and young adults, age 6 months through 24 years, be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available. Other groups recommended to receive the first doses of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine are:

- o Pregnant women
- o People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- o Health care and emergency medical services workers, and
- o People ages 25 through 64 years who have certain health conditions such as HIV, diabetes, or heart or lung disease.

**Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. Children under the age of 10 are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced about 3 weeks apart. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.**

As recommended, the district has registered as a "vaccinator provider site". This means when the H1N1 vaccination becomes available in our area, you will have the option of having your child vaccinated for free at school depending on interest and staffing available from the County and Milltown School District. This is not a mandatory requirement; you may choose not to have your child vaccinated or to have the vaccine with another provider such as your private medical office. We are presently awaiting the full details of the program from the Department of Health and will provide you with further information as it becomes available. Parental understanding and cooperation are extremely important components in prevention of illness and control of

disease spread. There are some very important measures that must be taken now; before anyone becomes ill.

- If your household does not own a thermometer, purchase one **NOW**. A simple oral thermometer can be purchased from local retailers for about \$5. If you are unable to afford to purchase a thermometer, please contact your school nurse for assistance.
- Continuously reinforce diligent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, proper disposal of tissues, healthy eating and adequate rest to maintain optimum health.
- If your child complains of not feeling well before school, please assess their symptoms and take their temperature **before** sending them to school. Children who develop a fever while at school are required to be sent home **immediately**. If your situation does not allow you to be available to come to school for your child when you are notified, then please make alternate arrangements with another person now, before it becomes an emergency.
- There exists the real possibility that the school nurses will be confronted daily with many ill children. We ask that you remind your children not to visit the nurse for nonessential reasons. Well children need to be kept away from the nurse's office to avoid exposure to ill children. The nurse's role is to care for illness and injuries that occur at school. If your child sustains an injury outside school hours, the injury needs to be addressed by the parent & the child's private physician.
- Recommendations are that your child receives the annual seasonal influenza immunization as well as the H1N1 vaccine. Please contact your child's private medical provider with regard to administration of the annual seasonal vaccine.
- If your child develops a fever (oral temperature of 100° or greater), the child must remain out of school and away from others until the child has been fever free for a **minimum of 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications**. *Children returning to school after a fever, must be cleared by the school nurse prior to reporting to homeroom. Enclosed in this packet is a letter for you to complete that your child must bring to the school nurse when he/she is evaluated upon return to school.* This letter is also available on the district website.

Please review the information on the district's website [www.milltownps.org](http://www.milltownps.org) about the two types of H1N1 influenza vaccine. There will be nasal mist and "shot" versions of vaccine available. The district is awaiting information as to when the vaccines will be provided and which type will be available first. In anticipation of the immunization program, we need to determine the number of children who will be receiving the vaccine. If you are interested in having your child vaccinated, please complete the enclosed **Vaccination Interest Form** and return it to your child's school nurse by **Monday October 19<sup>th</sup>**. Your interest is non-binding; it is not a firm commitment, allowing you to change your mind at any time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Linda Madison  
Superintendent

Cc: Mrs. Kathleen C. Conger, RN

Mrs. JoAnn Sulzinsky, RN