

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: October 20, 2009

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON H1N1 VACCINE PROGRAM**

ORIGINATOR: Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Dale Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services
Debbie Somerville, Coordinator, Health Services

INFORMATION

That the Board of Education receives an update on the county's effort to immunize school-aged children against H1N1 influenza.

Executive Summary

Attachment 1 Influenza Readiness Plan

Attachment 2 Accessibility of Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers in Schools

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Attachment 11 Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) Procedures for Activation of “Point of Dispensing” (POD) Sites

Executive Summary
Baltimore County Public Schools
Board of Education 2009 Update on Influenza
(Including Seasonal and H1N1)

- I. BCPS Influenza Readiness Plan – In August 2009, BCPS developed an influenza readiness plan that has four components. Attachment 1 (Influenza Readiness Plan)
 - A. Prevention – Attachment 2 (Accessibility of Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers in Schools)
Attachment 3 (Cover your Cough)
 - B. Monitoring – Attachment 4 (Influenza Questions and Answers for Administrators)
 - C. Communications – Attachment 5 (Letter to Parents/Guardians)
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 - D. Continuity of Operations – Attachment 10 (Seasonal Flu Vaccine Program 2009-2010)
Attachment 11 (Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) Procedures for Activation of “Point of Dispensing” (POD) Sites)

- II. Baltimore County Department of Health – Overview of H1N1 Vaccine Program
 - A. Vaccine Overview
 - B. Priority Populations
 - C. Vaccination Plan
 - 1. Regional Clinics
 - 2. Health Department Clinics
 - 3. School-based Clinics

- III. Baltimore County Public Schools – Elements of Collaboration
 - A. Regional Clinics
 - 1. Logistics
 - a. Use of facilities
 - b. Distribution – movement of health department equipment
 - 2. Distribution of vaccine clinic information to students and parents
 - 3. Recruitment of employees to staff clinics
 - B. School-based Clinics
 - 1. Dissemination and screening of consents
 - 2. Support staff for clinics

Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Health Services

Influenza Readiness Plan (Including H1N1 and Seasonal Flu)

October 2009

Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) continues to follow the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and county health departments on seasonal and H1N1 influenza.

The BCPS' strategy to respond to seasonal and H1N1 has four components: Prevention, Monitoring, Communications, and Continuity of Operations. Key activities under each component are built into school system procedures and are highlighted below.

Prevention

- Briefing for school nurses by the Baltimore County Department of Health – August 2009.
- Training for all teachers and school staff on handwashing and early detection/isolation of sick children – August/September 2009.
- Educating the students on handwashing and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- Providing masks for use by students who have influenza-like illness and are awaiting pick up by parents.
- Providing personal protective equipment for staff who delivers direct health care to students.
- Offering seasonal flu vaccine program for employees.
- Offering seasonal flu vaccine program for students in special schools.
- Collaborating with the Baltimore County Department of Health to support provision of H1N1 vaccine clinics at school sites.
- Postponing seasonal flu vaccine programs at Title 1 schools to enable students to receive H1N1 vaccine as soon as it is available.
- Reminding key staff of the importance of adherence to established cleaning/disinfecting procedures (e.g., building services, instrumental music, science, athletics, physical education, technology, CTE).
- Meeting with building services chiefs to provide information on CDC guidance regarding routine cleaning.
- Installing hand sanitizers in areas with frequent shared use of instructional materials (e.g. keyboards, physical education equipment).
- Displaying posters on handwashing and cough etiquette.
- Providing resources to teachers and offices on cough etiquette through Safari Montage.

Monitoring

- Excluding students with influenza-like illness (fever of 100 or above with cough and/or sore throat).
- Collecting data on the daily number of students sent home with influenza-like illnesses.
- Reporting suspected outbreaks of influenza-like illness to the Baltimore County Department of Health.
- Monitoring school attendance rates daily.
- Reporting “confirmed” cases needs no special actions by schools, as directed by Baltimore County Department of Health and the CDC.

Communications

- Providing information to schools to share with parents on prevention and the need to keep sick children home.
- Providing information to teachers and employees on prevention and the need to stay home if sick with a fever.
- Providing information for parents on flu vaccines.
- Providing information on the BCPS’ Web site.
- Collaborating with BCPS PTA on information and resources for parents.
- Responding to media inquiries regarding influenza plan.

Continuity of Operations

- Developing a list of suggested books and enrichment activities for parents to use in the case of an extended school closure or dismissal.
- Using Critical Incident Response Team structure to coordinate the school system response in the case of an extended school closure or dismissal.
- Closing/dismissing of schools is not anticipated unless the disease caused by H1N1 becomes more serious than it is at this time, in accordance with the CDC guidance.

10/7/09

Due to the nature of this plan, it is fluid and will change based on updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Baltimore County Department of Health. Updates will be posted on the Office of Health Services’ Web site at <http://www.bcps.org/offices/sss/health/>.

Baltimore County Public Schools

Office of Health Services

Accessibility of Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers in Schools

Currently, BCPS' influenza readiness plan for hand sanitizers includes the following:

- **Hand sanitizers are being installed in areas of frequent shared use of instructional materials (keyboards, physical education equipment). The hand sanitizers are installed and are being installed in the gyms, computer labs, and on computer carts.**
- **PIN pads in cafeteria serving lines are being wiped every half hour with a sanitizer.**
- **Office of Food and Nutrition Services has standard operating procedures which were issued in 2006 and revised in 2008/2009. These procedures include cleaning and sanitizing food contact surfaces and utensils, personal hygiene for food handlers, and washing hands.**

Consultation with the Health Department

- **CDC and the Health Department state that the best method for removing germs from the hands is to wash them with soap and water.**
- **CDC guidance indicates that hand sanitizers are effective at removing germs and should be used when soap and water for hand washing is not available.**
- **BCPS meets the basic standard regarding hand sanitizers and this standard was adopted as a result of consultation with the health department in July 2009 as the Influenza Readiness Plan was being developed.**

Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!

Cover your Cough

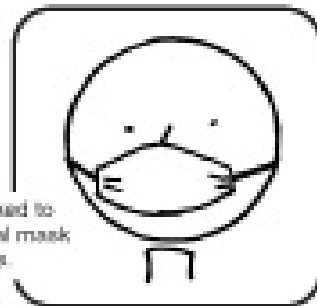


Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.



or cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.

Put your used tissue in the waste basket.



You may be asked to put on a surgical mask to protect others.

Clean your Hands

after coughing or sneezing.



Wash with soap and water or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
www.maryland.gov
OR CALL 1-800-368-6868



AMERICAN
PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION

APIC
PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY OF
INFECTION CONTROL

Influenza Questions & Answers for Administrators

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued guidance for schools related to influenza (flu, including the seasonal and H1N1 strain, formerly called the swine flu) prevention on 8/7/09. BCPS, in collaboration with the Baltimore County Department of Health, has reviewed and updated its procedures for assuring a safe school environment. NOTE: This is an evolving situation so recommendations change, sometimes quickly. This guidance is accurate as of the date it is written. Updates and changes to guidance for schools will be distributed through the Superintendent's Bulletin and posted to the Office of Health Services' Web'site at <http://www.bcps.org/offices/sss/health/>.

Some frequently asked questions about seasonal and H1N1 flu:

Is H1N1 something we need to be worried about?

The CDC advises us that currently H1N1 is causing mild disease, similar to seasonal flu. However, seasonal flu can be a deadly illness, so prevention is very important. (On average 1,000 people die each year in Maryland from seasonal flu or its complications. In Maryland, nine people have died of H1N1.)

Some differences between seasonal and H1N1 flu are:

- Timing – seasonal flu typically declines during the summer months. H1N1 has continued to occur in the United States throughout the summer of 2009. This may indicate an earlier than usual onset of flu illness in schools.
- A larger population of people vulnerable to infection – younger persons seem to be particularly vulnerable to H1N1 infection. CDC laboratory studies have shown that about 1/3 of persons older than 60 have immunity to the H1N1 virus while almost no persons under the age of 60 show any immunity to the virus.
- Immunizations – Typically we have a flu vaccine available to offer to persons at high risk of flu complications. While seasonal flu vaccine normally contains an H1N1 flu component, this year's seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against the novel H1N1 flu virus that has been recently circulating worldwide. A vaccine for this strain is currently in development but will not be widely available until mid-fall at the earliest. This means that high-risk populations are vulnerable to infection with H1N1 flu and increases the need for closely following prevention procedures like hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette.

What are the recommendations about hand washing?

Washing hands regularly and thoroughly with soap and water is the single best way to protect against infection with flu. Students and employees must have access to soap and water and must be provided time to wash their hands. Hand washing is recommended after coughing or sneezing into hands, before eating, after using the restroom and before/after using shared items like computer keyboards and physical education

equipment. Administrators need to remind staff of the procedures for alerting building services staff when a restroom is out of soap or paper towels.

What if soap and water is not available?

In most cases, soap and water is available in our buildings. If soap and water is not readily available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60% alcohol is effective at reducing the number of germs on the hands.

Should I purchase hand sanitizer?

No. Since soap and water is the best method for hand washing, you should be working to make sure there are supplies and time for hand washing. Hand sanitizer is only being placed in locker rooms and computer labs based on recommendations from the Baltimore County Department of Health, and Baltimore County Public Schools' Office of Health Services and Department of Physical Facilities.

Can hand sanitizers be used in the classroom?

BCPS provides soap and water for hand washing in schools. Students and employees may bring hand sanitizer for personal use. In places where soap and water is not available, hand sanitizers may be used.

Is special cleaning needed to protect students and employees?

CDC guidance states that routine cleaning is appropriate and special cleaning is not needed. Studies have shown that influenza virus can survive on environmental surfaces and can infect a person for up to 2-8 hours after being deposited on the surface. BCPS' employees responsible for cleaning buildings and materials (e.g., musical instruments, science goggles, etc.) have been reminded in August and October 2009 of the need to adhere to established cleaning procedures.

The Baltimore County Department of Health has advised us that it is not practical to disinfect computer keyboards in computer labs between users. For this reason, hand sanitizers will be installed in computer labs for use before and after use of shared computers. In addition, students should be directed to wash their hands with soap and water before and after using shared items, like classroom-based shared computers.

What about wearing masks?

The CDC has indicated that students who have influenza-like illness (fever of 100 or above combined with cough and/or sore throat) should wear a mask while awaiting pick-up from school. The CDC guidance also indicated that staff providing direct health care to students with influenza-like illness should be offered personal protective equipment.

The Baltimore County Department of Health has informed us that staff in the health suite should consider using a mask when providing health care in close proximity to a student with influenza-like illness. In accordance with this guidance, masks have been provided by BCPS for students with influenza-like illness who are awaiting parent pick-up in the health suite and for nurses or health assistants who are providing health care to students with influenza-like illness.

May teachers or other staff wear masks to keep from getting the flu?

The CDC guidance indicates that the effectiveness of masks worn in community settings at preventing infection with flu is not scientifically proven. Consequently, the CDC recommends that there is no need for employees in non-health care settings like school classrooms to wear masks. If an employee feels a mask is warranted, the employee should provide documentation from his/her health care provider regarding the need for the mask. This documentation should be submitted to the Office of Risk Management for review. As with other medical conditions, accommodation plans will be made in the best interest of the employee based on medical recommendations and a review of the employee's job duties.

May students wear masks?

The wearing of masks in a school by students should be viewed under the perspective of the dress code. If it disrupts the school environment, a principal may prohibit the wearing of masks. If a parent indicates that the child has a health reason (e.g., immune suppression, asthma, etc.) for wearing the mask, the parent should provide a note from the child's health care provider to the school nurse for review.

Will we be giving H1N1 vaccine at school when it becomes available?

The Baltimore County Department of Health is developing a plan for the distribution of H1N1 vaccine. This plan includes a series of regional clinics that will be held in several schools around the county. The clinics will begin in late October or November 2009, as soon as vaccine is available. In addition, some schools may have the opportunity to offer a vaccination program at school during the school day.

Will schools be closed?

The CDC guidance from August 2009 indicates that they have updated their recommendations regarding school closure. They now use the term "school dismissal" to address the closing of school for students. The guidance indicates that school dismissals are a local decision and may be made based on local conditions. School dismissal is not a strategy that is being generally considered unless the disease caused by H1N1 becomes more serious than it is at this time.

I have heard media reports about schools in Maryland closing because of cases of H1N1 and/or doing special cleaning or disinfecting. Has something changed?

Nothing has changed in the CDC guidance about school closing or cleaning. Based on the current severity of illness, the CDC does NOT recommend the closing of school to control the spread of H1N1 influenza. If a school is having administrative issues, e.g., too many staff members are ill and the school cannot find substitutes, the CDC acknowledges that closures may be needed for these administrative concerns. In BCPS, such a decision would be made by the Superintendent. If the severity of illness changes, the CDC may change its guidance.

In its most recent technical bulletin about *Technical Report for State and Local Public Health Officials and School Administrators for School (K-12) Responses to Influenza during the 2009-10 School Year* CDC states, “CDC does not believe any additional disinfection of environmental surfaces beyond the recommended routine cleaning is required.”

A parent has reported to our school that his child has a “confirmed” case of H1N1. Do I need to notify anyone?

No. BCPS anticipated that cases of H1N1 would be circulating in our community and schools this fall, based on CDC advice. We did not wait for a confirmed case to put in place prevention and control measures – we adopted these measures proactively. The Baltimore County Department of Health has assured us that no additional measures are needed when a parent (or health care provider) reports that an individual child has a case of H1N1.

We are seeing a lot of absences in our school. When should the Office of Health Services be notified?

The Office of Health Services monitors attendance in STARS on a daily basis. The Office of Health Services contacts principals when the reported attendance appears to be abnormal. In addition, school nurses have been directed to report to health services if they send home five or more students in one day with influenza-like illness and/or if they note that a group of students (e.g., a grade, large team, etc.) has 25 percent or more of the group absent on the same day.

10/7/09

NOTE: This is an evolving situation so recommendations change, sometimes quickly. This guidance is accurate as of the date it is written. Updates and changes to guidance for schools will be distributed through the Superintendent’s Bulletin. Updates will also be posted on the Office of Health Services’ Web site at <http://www.bcps.org/offices/sss/health/>.

August 25, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As a new school year begins, your child's health and readiness to be successful in school are very important to us. We are working closely together to monitor influenza (flu) conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take to protect the health and safety of students. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available to us.

As you may know, flu (seasonal and H1N1) can be easily spread from person to person. Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) has a plan to help reduce the spread of flu and to keep our schools functioning as usual. But we need your help. Some commonly asked questions include:

What can I do as a parent to protect my children against the flu?

- Teach your children good hand hygiene. Washing hands often with soap and water is the most important way to prevent the spread of illness. Hand washing should last 20 seconds (about the time it takes to sing *Happy Birthday* twice). Washing after coughing or sneezing helps prevent a person with the flu from spreading it to others. Washing hands before you eat or put your hands near your nose or mouth helps prevent you from getting the flu. Hand sanitizers, containing at least 60 percent alcohol, are also effective if soap and water are unavailable. BCPS permits students to carry hand sanitizer for personal use. Set a good example by using good hand hygiene yourself.
- Teach your children to cover their mouths and noses when they cough or sneeze. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into the elbow or sleeve, not the hands.
- Remind your children not to share personal items like drinks, food, or unwashed utensils.
- Contact your health care provider to get your family vaccinated for seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 when it is available.

What are signs or symptoms of the flu?

- Symptoms include: fever (100 degrees or higher) with cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may vomit or have diarrhea. Children with fever feel warm to the touch, may appear flushed, and may sweat or shiver.

What if my child has symptoms of a flu-like illness (gets sick)?

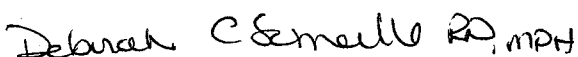
- Sick children need to stay home for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing drugs). Keeping a child with a fever home helps reduce the spread of flu.
- If your child has a health condition that places him/her at risk of flu complications, contact your health care provider at the first sign of illness.

What other steps should I do to be prepared?

- Plan now for your children's care at home if your children become ill with the flu.
- Stay informed about flu in our area. We encourage you to visit www.flu.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information. For more information on what our school system is doing or about flu in our community, visit www.bcps.org and www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/health.

We are looking forward to a healthy, successful school year and will continue to keep you informed of any changes in our recommendations to you or in the school system's plan to reduce the spread of flu.

Sincerely,



Deborah C. Somerville, RN, MPH
Coordinator, Office of Health Services
Baltimore County Public Schools



Lucia Donatelli, MD, FAAP
Chief, Pediatric Community Based Services
Baltimore County Department of Health

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

August 25, 2009

Dear Teacher:

As a new school year begins, we are concerned about the health and well being of both our students and our teachers. We are working closely together to monitor influenza (flu) conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available to us.

As you may know, flu (seasonal and H1N1) can be easily spread from person to person. Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) has a plan to help reduce the spread of flu and to keep schools functioning as usual. But we need your help.

What can we do to protect both ourselves and our students against the flu?

- Practice good hand hygiene. Washing hands often with soap and water is the most important way to prevent the spread of illness. Hand washing should last 20 seconds (about the time it takes to sing *Happy Birthday* twice). Encourage your students to wash their hands often. Washing after coughing or sneezing helps prevent a person with the flu from spreading it to others. Washing hands before you eat or put your hands near your nose or mouth helps prevent you from getting the flu. Hand sanitizers, containing at least 60 percent alcohol, are also effective if soap and water are unavailable. Students may carry hand sanitizer for personal use.
- Always cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve, not your hands. Coughing and sneezing directly into your hands can quickly spread germs. Also, promote good coughing and sneezing etiquette with your students.
- Do not share personal items like drinks, food, or unwashed utensils. If you must use public phones or shared computers, wash your hands well immediately after use.
- Contact your health care provider to get your family vaccinated for seasonal flu **and** 2009 H1N1 when it is available. BCPS will be offering seasonal flu vaccines for all permanent employees in October. See the Employee Wellness Program web site for dates and locations.
http://www.bcps.org/offices/sss/employee_wellness/default.html

What are signs or symptoms of the flu?

- Symptoms include: fever (100 degrees or higher) with cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may vomit or have diarrhea.

What should I do if I have flu-like illness (or symptoms)?

- Employees need to stay home for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing drugs). Staying home when you have a fever helps reduce the spread of flu.
- If you have a health condition that places you at risk of flu complications, contact your health care provider at the first sign of illness.

What other steps should I do to be prepared?

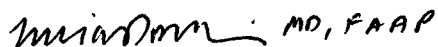
- Stay informed about flu in our area. We encourage you to visit www.flu.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information. For more information on what our school system is doing or about flu in our community, visit www.bcps.org and www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/health.

We are looking forward to a healthy successful school year and will continue to keep you informed of any changes in these recommendations or in the school system's plan to reduce the spread of flu.

Sincerely,



Deborah C. Somerville, RN, MPH
Coordinator, Office of Health Services
Baltimore County Public Schools



Lucia Donatelli, MD, FAAP
Chief, Pediatric Community Based Services
Baltimore County Department of Health

August 25, 2009

Dear Employee:

As a new school year begins, we are concerned about the health and well being of both our students and employees. We are working closely together to monitor influenza (flu) conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools and offices. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available to us.

As you may know, flu (seasonal and H1N1) can be easily spread from person to person. Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) has a plan to help reduce the spread of flu in order to keep our schools and offices functioning as usual. But we need your help. Some commonly asked questions include:

What can I do to protect myself against the flu?

- Practice good hand hygiene. Washing hands often with soap and water is the most important way to prevent the spread of illness. Hand washing should last 20 seconds (about the time it takes to sing *Happy Birthday* twice). Hand sanitizers, containing at least 60 percent alcohol, are also effective if soap and water are unavailable. Washing after coughing or sneezing helps prevent a person with the flu from spreading it to others. Washing hands before you eat or put your hands near your nose or mouth helps prevent you from getting the flu.
- Always cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve, not your hands. Coughing and sneezing directly into your hands can quickly spread germs.
- Do not share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils. If you must use public phones or shared computers, wash your hands well immediately after use.
- Contact your health care provider to get your family vaccinated for seasonal flu **and** 2009 H1N1 when it is available. BCPS will be offering seasonal flu vaccines for all permanent employees in October. See the Employee Wellness Program web site for dates and locations.
http://www.bcps.org/offices/sss/employee_wellness/default.html

What are signs or symptoms of the flu?

- Symptoms include: fever (100 degrees or higher) with cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache and feeling very tired. Some people may vomit or have diarrhea.

What should I do if I have flu like illness (or symptoms)?


- Employees need to stay home for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing drugs). Staying home when you have a fever helps reduce the spread of flu.
- If you have a health condition that places you at risk of flu complications, contact your health care provider at the first sign of illness.

What other steps should I do to be prepared?

- Stay informed about flu in our area. We encourage you to visit www.flu.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information. For more information on what our school system is doing or about flu in our community, visit www.bcps.org and www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/health.

We are looking forward to a healthy, successful school year and will continue to keep you informed of any changes in these recommendations or in the school system's plan to reduce the spread of flu.

Sincerely,

 Deborah C. Somerville, RN, MPH

Deborah C. Somerville, RN, MPH
Coordinator, Office of Health Services
Baltimore County Public Schools

 Lucia Donatelli, MD, FAAP

12 Lucia Donatelli, MD, FAAP
Chief, Pediatric Community Based Services
Baltimore County Department of Health



James T. Smith Jr.
County Executive

BALTIMORE COUNTY
MARYLAND

Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE
Health Officer, Department of Health

Dear Parent:

As you know, the Baltimore County Department of Health and the Baltimore County Public School System were partnering together to provide Seasonal FluMist to students in your child's school. However, on September 28th the State Department of Health issued a directive to Health Officers that all Seasonal FluMist projects are to be suspended immediately since it is anticipated that H1N1 vaccine will become available beginning next week. This decision was based on two things:

- 1) the desire to get children vaccinated against H1N1 influenza as soon as possible since this virus is present now in Baltimore; and
- 2) the need for there to be a four week interval between a child getting a Seasonal FluMist vaccine and a H1N1 FluMist vaccine.

We plan to offer the H1N1 FluMist at regional mass vaccination clinics in Baltimore County, as well as in each elementary school as soon as we receive the vaccine from the State. Please note, if your child got the seasonal flu vaccine as a shot, he can get the H1N1 FluMist vaccine as soon as it is available. There is no need to wait four weeks between an injection form of either of the flu vaccines and any other vaccine. We hope to offer the Seasonal FluMist again later this fall, after we begin providing the H1N1 FluMist vaccine first.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call us at the Department of Health at 410-887-BCHD (2243). If you would like information about H1N1 vaccination options, please check with your health care provider. We will post information about H1N1 vaccine clinics on our web site (www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/health) as soon as we receive the vaccine from the State.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter, as we work toward our vision of healthy people living, working, and playing in Baltimore County.

Sincerely,

Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE
Health Officer and Director

Baltimore County Public Schools Baltimore County Department of Health

Flu Vaccines – Seasonal and H1N1**What is the difference between Seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines?**

This year the flu vaccine is coming in two parts. The Seasonal part targets flu strains that were predicted to be circulating, based on information available in the winter of 2009. In the spring of 2009, health officials discovered a new strain of flu, called H1N1 or “swine” flu. A separate vaccine has now been developed for this new strain.

Will there be a flu vaccine that contains both strains (seasonal and H1N1)?

No, not this year.

Who should get the H1N1 flu vaccine?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that the following groups get the H1N1 flu vaccine as soon as it is available:

- Pregnant women
- Persons caring for children under 6 months of age
- Persons between the age of 6 months and 24 years
- Persons between the ages of 25 years and 64 years who have a chronic health condition (like diabetes) that places them at increased risk for complications of the flu
- Health care workers.

Is H1N1 vaccine available? Where will I be able to get my child a H1N1 shot?

As of the writing of this document (9/28/09), no H1N1 vaccine is yet available. The Department of Health expects to receive vaccine in mid to late October and will begin a series of public clinics once the vaccine arrives. These clinics will be publicized through our schools and through the media. Many of the clinics will be held in Baltimore County school buildings. Some schools may have a clinic held at their school during the school day. Some private doctors have also registered to be a provider of this vaccine. You can check with your child’s doctor to see if your child will be able to get the vaccine at his/her doctor’s office.

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Employee Wellness Program

SEASONAL FLU VACCINE PROGRAM 2009-2010

Vaccine will be given on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

At this time, we are not anticipating a shortage of flu vaccine. However, if there is a need to cancel any of the following flu clinics, notification will be made on the BCPS' Employee Wellness Web page: http://www.bcps.org/offices/sss/employee_wellness/default.html

No further mailing will be made from this office.

Tues., Oct. 13	New Town High School, Cafeteria	3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 14	Honeygo Run Regional Park	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 15	Patapsco High School, Lobby	3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Tues., Oct. 20	Western School of Tech, Activity Rm	3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 21	Loch Raven High School, Cafeteria	3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 12	Greenwood, ESS Building	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

All permanent (not contractual) employees – full or part time – as well as retired employees are eligible for the flu vaccine.

Substitutes, spouses, and children are not eligible.

If you have any questions, please contact the Employee Wellness Program at 410-887-6397, or the Office of Health Services at 410-887-6368, or visit the BCPS' Employee Wellness Web page:

http://www.bcps.org/offices/sss/employee_wellness/default.html

Safety & Emergency Management Steering Committee – General Protocol 15
Baltimore County Public Schools
CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (CIRT)
PROCEDURES FOR ACTIVATION OF “POINT OF DISPENSING” (POD)
SITES

CIRT will be responsible for the opening of “Point of Dispensing” (POD) sites as prearranged with the Baltimore County Department of Health.

1. Only the Baltimore County Department of Health may activate the process for deployment of resources for the distribution of medications during an emergency at the predetermined school locations. (See attached chart on POD sites which is to be updated annually.)
2. The Health Department’s emergency manager will contact one of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) Managers of the Baltimore County Public Schools and communicate the need to open one or more POD sites.
3. The CIRT Manager will notify the Superintendent of the request to use schools for medication distribution. It is assumed that schools will be closed if it is necessary to open POD sites.
4. The CIRT Manager will notify the Chief of Operations of the need to open POD sites and the specific requests.
5. The CIRT Manager will communicate with the principal of each site that is to be activated.
6. The Chief of Operations will contact the appropriate building operations supervisor for each site to secure access for the Health Department’s team that will arrive to run the site. Sites will need to have access to the loading dock, if one exists, restrooms, large area access – gymnasium or cafeteria with parking lot access to these areas for public pass through, access to phones, and then personnel areas such as faculty rooms or classrooms. Length of distribution will determine the amount of space needed.
7. The CIRT Manager will notify the Logistics Section Chief if there is a need for warehouse workers at the sites.
8. All building operations supervisors will report to the Chief of Operations when the POD sites have closed and the schools are secure.
9. The Chief of Operations will communicate to the CIRT Manager that all sites are secure.
10. The CIRT Manager will communicate to the Superintendent that all schools are secure and the POD sites have been closed.