

H1N1 Update, 12/3/09:

We are, with support from the Middlesex County Health Department, continuing to administer the H1N1 vaccine to students, with parental consent, **as it becomes available**. At this time all of the elementary students, whose parents requested the injectable vaccine have received it. We will be returning to the elementary schools to administer the nasal vaccine to those students, whose parents requested that type, as it becomes available. At the secondary level, where we are only administering the injectable form of the vaccine, we are starting to schedule based on the number of vaccinations received from the health department. Grade seven students at Hammarskjold are scheduled to receive the vaccine next Friday, December 11th.

Only students who returned consent forms will be scheduled to receive a vaccination. Students who received their first dose at another location will need to return to that provider to receive the second dose of the vaccine. Students who had the first dose in school will be given the second dose after all students received the first dose and when it becomes available.

A Saturday date for elementary students whose parents chose to be present, out of district students, and those who were absent for the first vaccine will be scheduled once all students in the schools have received the vaccine.

The clinics continue to operate smoothly thanks to our school nurses and nurses from the Middlesex County Health Department. The students have been terrific and we grateful to our PTAs for their last minute support and flexibility. In addition to providing elementary students with a small snack and a sticker or prize, they are helping with the organization and paperwork.

Our nurses continue to monitor attendance on a daily basis and ours is very good. As a matter of fact it is 30% better than it was last year at this time. The increased vigilance on everyone's part seems to be working! Many, many thanks to our custodial staff for keeping our buildings clean, our nurses and teachers who are reinforcing healthy habits in school and our parents who are keeping their sick children at home and encouraging their children to practice good hygiene.

Thank you to Dr. Love, Austin Kosik and the Middlesex County Health Department for making the health and safety of our students a top priority.