October 21, 2009

Dear Parents:

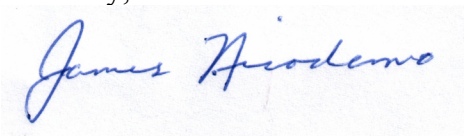
The Marlington Local School District is working very closely with the Stark County Health Department in order to provide the healthiest environment that we can for your child/children during this flu season. It is recommended that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available. Other groups recommended to get the first available doses of the vaccine include:

- pregnant women
- persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers)
- health-care and emergency medical services personnel
- persons aged 25-64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications

With that in mind, The Marlington Local School District has decided to participate in a free school based vaccination clinic in order for your child/children to receive a free 2009 H1N1 vaccination. What that means is that we are going to be providing the H1N1 vaccine during the school day for Grades 6-12. Enclosed you will find a vaccine information sheet, a form that says yes I want my child to be vaccinated or no I don't want to have my child/children vaccinated, and a permission form. If you choose yes, please fill out the attached permission form and send it back to school with your child. **THIS PERMISSION SLIP MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 27, 2009, NO EXCEPTIONS, OR YOUR CHILD WILL NOT RECEIVE THE VACCINATION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**. If you choose no, then send the half slip back to school with your child/children. **No child will be vaccinated without the signed and completed permission form.** Although we do not know the exact date that this vaccine clinic will be provided, we are sending these forms home so they can be received by the school no later than October 27, 2009. The forms will then be reviewed by qualified personnel to ensure your child's eligibility for the vaccine. **Only one shot is necessary for children 10 years and older.** There will also be a community clinic that will be provided by the Stark County Health Department that will be open to everyone else who meets the criteria listed above. The time, date and location of that clinic will be released at a later date.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child/children from this potentially serious disease. This vaccine is manufactured the exact same way as seasonal flu vaccine which ensures its safety. This vaccine is recommended to all individuals who meet the above criteria, unless, you have received specific lab confirmation that indicated that your child/children have already had H1N1. If you have any questions regarding this vaccine and the school based clinic please call The Stark County Health Department at 330-493-9928.

Sincerely,



James Nicodemo
Superintendent