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October 7, 2009

Dear Families of Rutland Public Schools Students and Home-Schooled Students:

The Vermont Department of Health has initiated school-run vaccination clinics to provide H1N1 flu shots for school-aged children, and the Rutland City Public Schools will take part. These flu shots are not mandatory and will only be provided with parents' signed consent.

We have tentatively scheduled our H1N1 vaccination clinics in our schools on the following dates:

- Northwest Primary, Pierpoint, AEP – November 2nd
- Northeast Primary, SUCCESS – November 9th
- Rutland Intermediate, Rutland Middle – November 17th
- Rutland High, Stafford Technical Center – November 19th

The second vaccination for children younger than 10 years is scheduled on the following dates:

- Northwest Primary, Pierpoint – December 8th
- Northeast Primary, SUCCESS – December 9th
- Rutland Intermediate – December 21st

The 2009 H1N1 Vaccine Consent form is enclosed. For students at Rutland Middle School, Rutland High School or Stafford Technical Center, please return the consent form as soon as possible, but no later than October 20th. For students at Northeast, Northwest and Rutland Intermediate School, please return these consent forms at your scheduled Parent Conference on October 20th or 21st. If you need assistance in completing the consent form, please contact your school nurse or counselor.

Whether or not you choose to have your child vaccinated against H1N1 flu, there are things that we can all do to keep children healthy and to prepare for flu. These include:

- Remind your children to always cover their mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze.
- Remind your children to practice good hand hygiene, washing hands as often as necessary.
- If your child is sick, he/she should stay home. If they have fever, they should stay home for *at least* 24 hours after the fever is gone, without using fever-reducing medicines.
- Plan for child care at home if your child gets sick (for a minimum of five school days).
- Consult your family doctor if you have any specific questions.

OVER PLEASE

Northeast Primary School Northwest/Pierpoint Primary School Rutland Intermediate School
Rutland High School Rutland Middle School Stafford Technical Center SUCCESS

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Flu Vaccine Information – page 2

In an effort to curtail wide-spread sickness at school, children with flu-like illnesses (sore throat, bad cough, body aches or chills, fever of 100°F or more, extreme fatigue, sometimes vomiting or diarrhea), need to stay home for at least 24 hours. Your help with this is extremely important and necessary. We are enclosing two information sheets for your use with your children and family at home.

We will be updating you via our Alert Now system as we get closer to the actual vaccination dates.

If you have questions about the Rutland Public Schools flu shot clinics, please contact your child's school nurse or principal.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Moran
Superintendent

Enclosures: Davis/Vilaseca Letter
Vaccine Consent Form
H1N1 Vaccine – What You Need to Know
Talking with Children about the Flu