



INFLUENZA STRATEGY FOR FALL/WINTER 2009 - 2010

SCHOOLS

Rationale for Fall School Policy

- > Fall school policy will be different from Spring
 - We know more about novel H1N1 influenza
 - Likely no worsening in severity of illness
 - More preventive measures in place
 - Vaccine available
 - Many children already immune

Open Schools Policy

Dept of Education (DOE) does not plan to close schools with flu activity

- > Emphasis on teaching students preventive measures
 - Wash/sanitize hands often
 - Avoid touching mouth and nose
 - Cover coughs and sneezes
 - Bathrooms stocked with soap and towels
- > DOE exploring providing hand sanitizer in schools
- > Parents will be instructed to keep children home if they have fevers and cough or sore throat
- > H1N1 vaccinations available with parental consent

Communication with Families and Principals

- > Letter backpacked home to families during first week of school and throughout flu season
- > Informational materials provided to schools
- > Outreach to Community Education Councils and parent groups
 - DOE/DOHMH staff available for info sessions
- > Weekly flu updates to all school principals
- > Ongoing communication with school nurses

Daily Flu Reporting

- > At the end of each school day, DOE will report:
 - Attendance rates for public schools
 - Instances of influenza-like illnesses in public schools
- > Information will be available at: www.nyc.gov/flu

Preventive Measures for Schools Experiencing Influenza Activity

- > If a school reports 5 cases of influenza-like illness among students in attendance:
 - Parents will receive a second letter on keeping ill children at home
 - School will reinforce messages on hand washing and covering coughs



Preventive Measures for Schools with Excessive Influenza Activity

If nurse sees 4% of students (minimum of 15) with influenza-like illness during one school day, DOHMH will:

- > Conduct on-site assessment
- > Direct additional infection control measures
- > Assess risk to vulnerable children
- > Consider school closure only if vulnerable children cannot be protected otherwise

Logistics of Vaccination of Schoolchildren

- > Traveling vaccination teams for large elementary schools
- > School RNs for small elementary schools
- > Borough-based PODs on weekends for middle and high school students
- > School-based health centers
- > Charter and non-public schools may participate

Vaccination School System Issues

- > Priority schools
 - Elementary, D75 schools
- > Scheduling in the school day
- > Parental consent
 - Public communication effort to educate and encourage return of consents
- > Documentation through DOHMH City Immunization Registry

Timeline

September	School vaccination plan finalized
September	School H1N1 monitoring program
September	Confirmation of 1 dose H1N1 strategy
Mid-Oct	Receive first distribution of H1N1 vaccine
Late-Oct	Begin H1N1 and seasonal school immunization program
November	Complete H1N1 and first dose of seasonal
December	Complete 2 nd dose of seasonal (students <9)