# Yale Public Schools

198 SCHOOL DRIVE • YALE, MICHIGAN 48097
PHONE: 810-387-3231 • FAX 810-387-4418

FRANK JOHNSON
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION:
President - Dr. Michael McClelland
Vice President - Mr. Terry Holst
Secretary - Mr. Kevin Sokacz
Treasurer - Mr. Ron Charney
Trustee - Mrs. Dena French
Trustee - Mr. James Muldoon, Jr.,
Trustee - Mrs. Amanda Zabor

October 26, 2009

Dear Yale Public Schools Parents/Guardians,

I am writing again regarding the H1N1 flu virus. The prevalence of the flu is increasing in other parts of the State of Michigan. We will continue to work closely with the Health Department to monitor flu conditions and absences in our schools. If we experience high absences then we will make a decision with the assistance of the Health Department regarding individual school closure or district closure. If that decision is made we will announce it on the radio and television just as an inclement weather day. If time permits, we will also send notice home with the students the prior day. We are continuing to clean our buildings thoroughly. Also, listed in this letter is information regarding the flu and its prevention.

**The Health Department has scheduled H1N1 vaccination clinics for our district and I have listed them below.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Farrell Elementary** | **Monday, 11/9/09** |
| **Yale Elementary** | **Tuesday, 11/10/09** |
| **Avoca Elementary** | **Thursday, 11/12/09** |

All clinics will be held from 1:30 – 8:00pm at all sites. In the event of clinic cancellation, listen to/read local media communications or check Health Department website: www.stclaircounty.org/offices/health for current information.
Hours 1:30-3:00 pm are designated for school students in the building to receive vaccine.
Hours 4:00-8:00 pm are focused on immunizing community members of at-risk populations including:

- Pregnant women
- Children between 6 months and 24 years
- Health care workers/emergency first responders
- Care givers of children under 6 months of age
- Anyone 25-64 with an underlying health condition such as asthma, diabetes or any heart/lung condition

Initial clinics are focused on vaccinating above groups. If you are a healthy adult over 49 years of age please consider postponing your vaccination until larger supplies of vaccine are available. Note: Health Department vaccination packets will be sent home with students tomorrow.

Local physicians are following the national guidelines for flu diagnosis provided to them by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). In most circumstances, those guidelines do not include the use of lab testing to determine if the particular strain of the flu that is present in the patient is the new H1N1 virus. As a result, it is highly unlikely that Yale Schools will receive any authoritative medical confirmation about the presence of H1N1 among its students. The physicians and Health Department further indicate that the symptoms and treatment for each strain of the flu, including H1N1, are identical.

From the school's perspective, we will assume that any case of the flu among any of our students has the potential to be the H1N1 strain. Because the symptoms and treatment for H1N1 are the same, our district's response to flu-like conditions in the district will continue to follow Health Department recommendations as well, and will focus on prevention.

**With that in mind, the school reminds parents and families that they can help reduce the spread of flu in school and community by:**

- ✓ **Reminding your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water.
- ✓ **Reminding your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils.
- ✓ **Reminding your children to cover up their coughs or sneezes** by using the elbow, arm or sleeve, instead of their hand.

In addition to the student behaviors, schools remind parents and families to:

- ✓ **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms include fever (100 degrees or greater), cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, body aches, headache and fatigue. Some people also experience vomiting or diarrhea.
- ✓ **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or do not have signs of fever, *without using* fever-reducing medication (Motrin, Tylenol, etc). Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected with the flu.
- ✓ **Do not send children to school if they are sick.**

For more information about flu prevention, visit the Health Department's website at www.stclaircounty.org/office/health.

I want to thank parents for their efforts to help control the spread of the flu in the schools. Parents with any questions should call the school at 810-387-3231.

Sincerely,
Frank Johnson, Superintendent