



TIOGA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PO. Box 120
1062 State Route 38
Owego NY 13827-0120
www.tiogacountyny.com

Johannes Peeters, MPA
Public Health Director

Public Health	(607) 687-8600	fax – 687-2916
Environmental Health	(607) 687-8620	fax - 687-6041
Administration	(607) 687-8630	fax – 687-8636
Toll Free	1-800-282-4884 (Owego)	

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] has identified that school age children are within the high risk groups for getting the 2009 H1N1 influenza. The 2009 H1N1 influenza virus identified in April has caused illnesses ranging from mild to severe and has caused hospitalizations and deaths in children and adults. The CDC and the Tioga County Health Department are concerned that with the onset of cold weather, the 2009 H1N1 virus may cause more illness which may be severe in some cases. The **best way to protect your child** is to have your child receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccination.

Tioga County Health Department strongly encourages vaccination of your child through his/her health care provider as soon as possible once the vaccine becomes available. Your health care provider cannot charge you for the vaccine and it is our understanding that any administrative costs should be covered by insurance. Due to possible shortages and/or time constraints, this is the recommended method of vaccinating your child.

If it is not possible for you to immunize your child through a health care provider, the Tioga County Health Department will be conducting clinics throughout the County, including a clinic at your school. You will receive an information packet from us delivered through the school on the dates and times of the school clinic. **The vaccination is not mandatory and will not be given without your consent.**

Your child's health care provider can answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and will also be able to give your child the seasonal influenza vaccine. If you have any questions about the 2009 H1N1 vaccination clinics, please call Tioga County Health Department at 687-8600, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm or call the informational line at 1-888 369-0700. Visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> for information especially for parents.

Sincerely,

Mr. Johannes Peeters, MPA
Director of Public Health