

Grant County Health Department
401 South Adams Street
Marion, IN 46953

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may have heard, a new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many children have gotten 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been large outbreaks in some schools across the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has 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 doses of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine are:

- o Pregnant women
- o People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- o Health care and emergency medical services workers, and
- o People ages 25 through 64 years who have certain health conditions such as HIV, diabetes, or heart or lung disease.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. The Grant County health department is working with your child's school to give the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at school. We will hold vaccination clinics beginning this fall, and your child's school will let you know the specific dates once vaccine is on hand.

The vaccine consent form includes options allowing you to either accept or refuse the vaccination for your child. If you refuse, the vaccination will not be given to your child.

1) You must read the "What you need to know" form included with this letter about the disease and the vaccine. You must then sign and date the included consent form to accept vaccination for your child and return it to the school. If you accept vaccination, the vaccine will be given to your child when it is on hand. School staff will let you know when the vaccination clinic will take place.

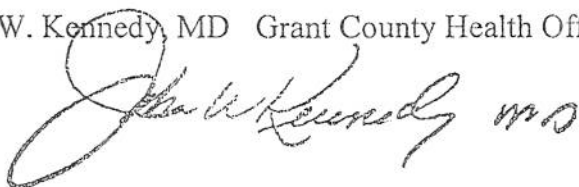
2) If you decide to not have your child immunized at school you must sign the form stating you do not give consent for your child to be immunized and then your child will not receive the vaccine.

The completed form must be sent back to school stating you want your child to receive immunization or not receive immunization.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call: 765-6620377 (112) from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Sincerely,

J. W. Kennedy, MD Grant County Health Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. W. Kennedy MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".