

**BELLOWS FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**15 School Street**  
**Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101**  
**(802)463-4366/463-3785      FAX: (802)463-9738**

DATE: November 12, 2009

**– Important information about H1N1 flu vaccination clinics –**

Dear parent or guardian:

The BFMS Vaccination Clinic has been **rescheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>** and will be at Central Elementary School. Our students, who have signed consent forms, will be going in the morning. We understand that you may have changed your mind about how your child will be vaccinated.

We want to make sure that every child who is vaccinated gets the right number of doses, and at the right times. (Children age 9 and under must get two H1N1 flu shots, with about a month between the first and second vaccination. Children older than 9 need only one shot.)

To help us plan for the school clinic and make sure children are vaccinated correctly, we ask you to do the following:

- 1. If you have already signed a consent form for your child, but he/she has since been vaccinated**, please write a note to the school nurse letting us know when your child was vaccinated. In the note, write your child's name and date of birth, your signature and the date.
- 2. If you have already signed a consent form for your child, but now choose not to allow your child to be vaccinated**, please write a note to the school nurse that you have decided against vaccination in the school clinic. In the note, write your child's name and date of birth, your signature, and the date.
- 3. If you have NOT already signed a consent form for your child, you can still do so.** Child vaccination consent forms are available at [http://healthvermont.gov/panflu/school\\_clinics.aspx#forms](http://healthvermont.gov/panflu/school_clinics.aspx#forms) or you can ask the school for a blank copy of the form. If you are sending a consent form now, your child's name will be put on a waiting list. Your child will be vaccinated on clinic day if there is enough vaccine available at that time. The school nurse will contact parents of children on the waiting list to let them know if your child was able to be vaccinated on that day. If we are unable to offer vaccine on that day, you will be referred to your doctor's office or a public clinic.

**Please remember to keep your child home from school if he or she is sick.**

If your child has to miss our school's vaccine clinic day, you will still be able to go to a public clinic or go to your doctor's office.

**And if your child has already had a flu-like illness, we still recommend vaccination.**

Most people won't be tested for H1N1 flu virus, so you won't know for sure if the illness was H1N1. Also, there is no problem getting vaccinated even if you've already had H1N1 flu.

**There are 11 doses still available for BFMS as some students have already received the H1N1 vaccine. So please do not hesitate to sign up. Currently there is no waiting list.** Please contact me at 463-4366 ext 404 if any questions.

Sincerely,  
Laura Lober, RN

We have started to see the H1N1 flu in our school community. Most children that have “flu like symptoms,” are not formally being diagnosed with the H1N1 at the doctor’s office unless there is an underlying medical condition, or the child is severely ill.

Flu like symptoms are considered to be cough, fever, sore throat, nasal congestion, muscle aches, and possibly stomach upset with diarrhea. You do not have to have all of these symptoms to be considered as having the flu.

If your child has a fever with any of the above symptoms, please keep him or her home from school. Any child that is sent home during the school day with a fever must be 24 hours free of a fever without the aid of Tylenol or Motrin before returning to school. At this point the school district has encouraged all schools to stay open even if this flu is present. Naturally this will be looked at closer if there is a high percentage of student/staff absenteeism.

#### **BFMS VISION STATEMENT**

We envision the Bellows Falls Middle School to be a place where ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY STRIVE TO:

1. Engage in and promote lifelong learning
2. Have high expectations
3. Celebrate the achievement of high standards
4. Contribute to and promote positive school climate
5. Respect and recognize one another’s passions, strengths, challenges and needs  
Lead healthy lives