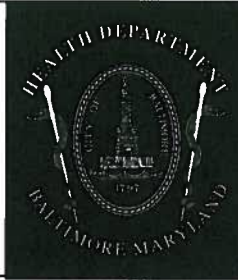

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., R.S.
Interim Commissioner
1001 E. Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to update you on Baltimore City's plan for immunizing students against the influenza virus this year. As you may know, the new influenza virus, the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, is now the primary flu virus circulating in our community and schools. As a result, we will no longer provide seasonal flu vaccinations and focus instead on preventing H1N1. We are providing new information about the H1N1 vaccine with this letter, along with consent forms that must be signed for your child to receive the vaccination. Consent forms that you may have already completed and returned for seasonal flu cannot be used for the H1N1 vaccine

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this virus. Please review the enclosed information, and if you decide you want your child to receive the H1N1 vaccination, **please complete the consent form and return it to his or her school by Friday, October 30.**

The Baltimore City Health Department will make the H1N1 vaccine available at no cost to Baltimore City Public Schools students through school-based clinics beginning in early November. The vaccine is now available from health care providers and at community medical clinics and Health Department community clinics. A list of these Health Department clinics can be found at www.baltimorehealth.org. If you have questions about the vaccination clinics, please call Baltimore City's 311 information line. You can also find information about the vaccine at www.flu.gov, and useful flu information for parents at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents.

Your child's school will let you know the specific dates that Health Department nursing staff will be vaccinating students.

Below are some other, simple ways you can help keep your children healthy this fall:

- **Teach your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. Scrub vigorously for 20 seconds.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues.
- **Cover coughs or sneezes** using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.

If your child does become sick and develop a fever, please keep them home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine. Keeping sick children at home will get them healthy sooner, and it will reduce the number of other people who may get infected. By working together, we can help keep all Baltimore City school children healthy this school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "O. Farrow", written over a white background.

Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., R.S.
Interim Commissioner of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrés A. Alonso", written over a white background.

Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
CEO, Baltimore City Public Schools