



November 18, 2009

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As you may have heard in the media, the health authorities have asked school boards in Quebec to organize transportation for children, ages 5 to 18 years, to designated vaccination sites in the city to receive the vaccination against Influenza A – H1N1. Although we have not yet received an exact starting date for this operation, we thought it best to advise you as soon as possible of this upcoming vaccination campaign. The start date will, in part, be determined by the speed with which the vaccination process for other priority groups is completed and the number of doses of vaccine available that week.

Therefore, we are asking you to indicate whether you agree to have your son/daughter vaccinated against Influenza A – H1N1. Please note the following:

1. You must complete and sign the attached permission slip and return it no later than November 24, 2009 (see attached). **Only students with a signed permission slip will be permitted to board the bus and receive the vaccination. Please complete all sections of the Consent Form.** Students without the appropriate documentation, or those whose parents have refused the vaccination, will remain at school. In addition:
  - (a) It is suggested that students wear a short-sleeved shirt on vaccination day; this will facilitate the administration of the vaccine.
  - (b) Kindly give your child a snack, which he or she can eat before getting vaccinated
  - (c) **If your child has allergies, or if you have answered “YES” to questions 1 to 7 on page 2, then you should accompany your child to the vaccination center of your choice at another time.**
  - (d) Attached to this letter, is information regarding the vaccine and its possible reactions
2. If you do not wish to have your child vaccinated, please complete the appropriate portion of the consent form attached.
3. Parents who wish to be present when their child receives the vaccine may do so. However, parents will not be permitted to ride the bus with their children and will have to make their own arrangements to the vaccination site. Parents will reunite with their child at the site, before the vaccination is given. We strongly recommend that you car-pool with other parents as parking will be limited at the vaccination site.
4. The first group of students will leave at approximately 9:30 in the morning. The last group of students will return to school at approximately 1:30 in the afternoon. Students will have lunch before or after their vaccination appointment, depending on the scheduling.
5. On vaccination day you will be given confirmation that your child has received the Influenza A – H1N1 vaccine. Kindly place this confirmation in your child's Vaccination Booklet.
6. The English Montreal School Board will be transporting your child to one of the 17 vaccination sites that have been set up by the public health authorities. On the day before your child will be vaccinated, we will confirm with you where he/she will be going.
7. Students, whose parents are refusing to have their child vaccinated in this manner, or those who have already received the vaccine, will remain at school under supervision. They will be assigned work by their teacher.
8. Regular school hours will be in effect on the day of vaccinations.

If you do not wish to have your child vaccinated in this way, you may always take your child to a vaccination clinic at a time and place that is more convenient for you. Vaccination centres on the island of Montréal will be giving priority to children aged 5 to 13 who are accompanied by their parents, and to young people aged 14 to 19. From November 19 to 30, you are invited to go to a vaccination centre with your child between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. week days, or between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekends.

If you would like more information about the vaccination transportation, please contact the school. For additional information about the vaccine, please call Services Québec (514) 644-4545) or visit the [pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca](http://pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca) website.

Sincerely,

Principal  
/lc  
Encls.