

# *Royalton-Hartland Central School District*

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*Kevin M. MacDonald*  
*Superintendent*

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The H1N1 virus has become a public health concern. It is understood that every flu season has the potential to cause illness, doctor visits, hospitalization and even death. The concern is that the new H1N1 virus **could** result in a particularly severe flu season.

The Royalton-Hartland Central School District anticipates that both students and staff are likely to become infected with the H1N1 virus and/or the “regular” flu. I want to assure you the district is working collaboratively with the Niagara County Department of Health as well as following guidance from the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department in an effort to be as prepared as possible. It is important to understand that the information regarding the virus, treatment, and vaccination is changing almost daily as health officials continue to learn more about the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), along with the various Departments of Health are advising the population to receive their normal flu shots in early fall (September/October) followed by the H1N1 vaccine as it becomes available. All are advising that you seek vaccination through your primary care physician when possible. The district is investigating the possibility of holding a H1N1 vaccination clinic operated within the school(s); however, if you are considering the vaccination, your primary care physician should be your first choice. Please understand should you have trouble getting shots early due to supply and demand, to continue your efforts as peak flu season can occur as late as March. It should be noted, at the time I write you this letter, that getting vaccinated is **not a requirement**, it is a personal choice, and this letter shall not serve as an endorsement or otherwise in regard to getting vaccinated.

We need to work cooperatively as a school community to contain the spread of the virus. Your cooperation in communicating with our district health staff when your child is sick and, most importantly, **keeping your ill child home** will assist in accomplishing this goal. Sending students to school after providing them with symptom relief medication such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen, does not lessen the contagious nature of the virus, and will likely result in more people becoming ill. *If your child is sent home from school with a fever, they will be required to remain home the following day (should it be a school day). Your child should remain home for a minimum of 24 hours after the fever subsides. Should your child re-enter school, and is found to have a recurring fever he/she will be sent home again and be subject to the same re-admittance standard.* This is the procedure being recommended to us by the various agencies listed above.

As always please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Kevin MacDonald  
Superintendent of Schools