

PORTAGE COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

JOINT COMMAND TEAM

Portage County Health Department
Ravenna City Health Department
Kent City Health Department

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School clinics scheduled for this week

The Portage County local health departments sent letters home to parents in the Waterloo and Garfield school districts, as well as to Portage County juniors and seniors who attend Maplewood Career Center. A bright yellow consent form and information about the vaccine was attached to the letter. "As dates are scheduled, this is the standard information that parents receive from the health departments through the school" said Annette Petranic, who is coordinating the school-based clinics for the county.

School-based clinics will be scheduled according to how much vaccine is available from the weekly shipments. Once they are scheduled, then the letters with consent forms and vaccine information are sent to parents.

School-based clinics and risk groups

Children are among the part of the population at increased risk for severe complications from H1N1 flu. Holding school-based clinics is a way to reach this group quickly and affordably. The H1N1 flu shot through the school is free. Children with underlying health conditions, such as asthma, are at an even greater risk of having severe complications from H1N1 flu. Portage County Medical Director Angela DeJulius added, "Because vaccine continues to be limited, the best option for parents right now is to take advantage of the school-based clinic."

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