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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Due to the reduced availability of vaccine Algoma Public Health is **only** going to vaccinate **students** in your schools in our clinics. This decision is effective immediately.

There are 2 considerations in regards to this:

- 1). As students are vaccinated they will be protected and as they do not get the flu they will not be able to spread it to school staff or to their families which is an important obstacle to the spread of the H1N1 virus.
- 2). Any staff or parent who is part of the high risk group below can access, through the flu line, clinics that are being held in Algoma over the next few days.

High risk groups that are encouraged to receive the H1N1 flu vaccine are:

- People under 65 with significant chronic conditions
- Pregnant women
- Children 6 months to under five years of age
- People living in remote or isolated communities
- Health care workers and
- Household contacts and care providers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines.

Flu Line numbers: 541-2332 or 1-800-469-2449.

When vaccine becomes available in adequate quantities again, staff and parents will be able to attend community clinics set up for the general population.

Dr. Allan Northan
Medical Officer of Health

