



## SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

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*Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Statement: We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating Saint Francis of Assisi as "instruments of peace." Our goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to be academically prepared for this technological age.*



### Key Updates with Regard to H1N1 Vaccine Availability

- This is an unprecedented flu season. We will have two strains of flu circulating at the same time. There are five major vaccine manufacturers who are working day and night to produce both seasonal and H1N1 (swine) flu vaccines during the same time period. This has never been done before and, as a result, there have been some interruptions in the supply chain for both vaccines.
- Public and school based clinics tentatively scheduled for November should be postponed indefinitely pending the availability of more specific information about vaccine production. We will provide additional information as it becomes available through the CDC.
- The availability of vaccine at any given provider site at any given time may be sporadic at this time. Every effort is being made to ensure that providers who serve high-priority groups will receive vaccine as soon as possible. The single most effective way that you can stay informed about the availability of seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine in your community is by staying in touch with your health care provider, and by visiting <http://flu.masspro.org> where you'll find a database of locations currently offering flu vaccines, searchable by your zip code.
- It's important to note that there are no public H1N1 vaccination clinics currently scheduled in the state. This is because, like all other states, we have only received a very small allotment of the total amount of H1N1 vaccine expected.
- We realize that the residents of Massachusetts depend greatly on local boards of health for information on vaccinations, however we want to make it clear that in this season in particular it is difficult for us or local public health to know exactly when they will be able to hold public clinics. I understand -- and share -- in their frustration. We are confident that the federal government will continue to do everything they can to ensure the efficient distribution of safe and effective flu vaccines as they become available. We pledge to work very closely with local public health to get them the most up to date information to assist in their planning.

#### Seasonal Flu

- We have distributed 609,000 of our 850,000 doses (69%). We do expect to receive our full order by early December.