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September 23, 2009

Dear Parent:

As part of its emergency preparedness program, Upshur County Schools is partnering with the Upshur-Buckhannon Health Department to continue reporting efforts to make sure students are safe and that cases of influenza are properly documented this upcoming school year.

Human cases of the H1N1 (swine flu) virus are still being found in the United States and around the world. Disease severity, however, still appears to be similar to seasonal influenza outbreaks. As you know, Upshur County Schools and the Upshur-Buckhannon Health Department have been working cooperatively to share information regarding the flu with the public and will continue to do so.

Schools, with large congregations of people, **could** be places where the flu is spread. Keeping our children safe is one of our utmost priorities. In an effort to quell the spread of the virus before it starts, the Upshur-Buckhannon Health Department can provide H1N1 vaccinations. Our local schools may be utilized by the Upshur-Buckhannon Health Department as vaccination sites.

If you wish your child to be vaccinated, please complete the enclosed consent form and provide a copy to your child's school by **October 12, 2009**. We will notify parents of vaccinations dates and times.

As always, should you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact the Upshur-Buckhannon Health Department at 304-472-2810 or your child's school nurse. For more information, visit Upshur County Schools' website at <http://boe.wvlink.com/upshurschools/>. Other resources include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevent at www.cdc.org, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources at www.wvdhhr.org and Healthy Kids at www.healthykids.org.

Sincerely,

Scott Lampinen
Superintendent

