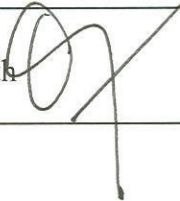

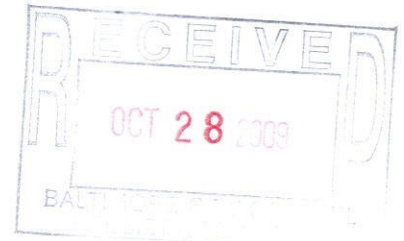


F R O M	Name & Title	Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., RS Interim Commissioner of Health 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street		
	Subject	Council Bill 09-0165R Flu Vaccines – Outreach to African Americans and Hispanics		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o
409 City Hall

October 28, 2009



The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to Council Resolution 09-0165R. This resolution urges the Baltimore Health Commissioner to initiate a campaign, in concert with healthcare providers, faith-based organizations, Baltimore City Public Schools, and senior care-givers, to inform African Americans and Hispanics of the disproportionate dangers of the flu pandemic and encourage African Americans and Hispanics to get vaccinated.

Baltimore City has a diverse population consisting of a high percentage of minorities. Below is the U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 Population Estimates for Baltimore City:

Baltimore City Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2008		
<i>Total Population</i>	<i>636,919</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Black or African American alone	405,116	63.6%
White alone	203,854	32.7%
Asian alone	12,380	2.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1,534	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	315	0.0%
Two or more races	10,227	1.3%
Not Hispanic or Latino	623,033	97.4%
Hispanic or Latino	16,310	2.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Population Estimates

The Baltimore City Health Department recognizes the City's demographics and has a long history of providing influenza vaccination outreach to the City's citizens.

In 1996, the Action for Community Enrichment (ACE) was formed. ACE is a community based immunization action coalition created by BCHD in conjunction with numerous local collaborators with the mission to provide influenza and pneumonia vaccinations to the City's

African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, and Native American senior citizen populations.

Collaborators included and presently includes city churches, parish nurses, senior high rise apartment management, nurse sororities, academic centers, malls, the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Commission on Aging and Retirement Education, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Maryland Partnership for Prevent. Attached, as Attachment 1, is a listing of all current or recent collaborators.

BCHD works in conjunction with its community partners to ensure that vaccination sites are specifically located in areas that will reach all populations. Meetings are held monthly from January through June. Starting in July, meetings are held biweekly to develop the calendar for vaccination clinics. Clinic dates and times can currently be obtained by visiting the Department's website and by calling the 311 Call Center or the Department's Flu Call Center.

BCHD also works closely with Baltimore City's public schools. Attached, as Attachment 2, is the recent letter signed by both the Interim Health Commissioner and the CEO of the Baltimore City Public Schools, which was distributed to all parents of public school students regarding the H1N1 virus and vaccinations.

Since 1997, over 55,000 City residents have been immunized. In 2003, ACE broadened its initial focus from senior aged 65 years and over to include those aged 50 years and older. This year, flu vaccination outreach has been especially vigorous due to the H1N1 pandemic.

BCHD looks forward to working with the City Council to ensure that our initiatives meet the City's growing needs and welcome the opportunity to provide more information about its vaccination outreach.

Cc: Angela Gibson

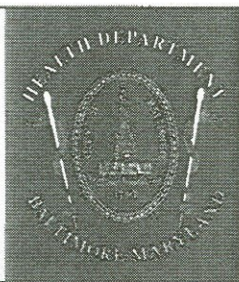
ATTACHMENT 1

Below is a list of all recent or current collaborators:

- Bethel AME Church
- Baltimore City Public Schools
- First Corinthians Baptist Church
- Govans Presbyterian Church
- Baltimore Hebrew
- The Palladium
- Orioles (for Camden Yards site)
- Waxter Foundation (for Hippodrome site)
- Jewish Community Center
- Waxter Senior Center
- Hooper Adult Day Care
- McCullough Apartments
- Marlborough Apartments
- John Booth Senior Center
- Ivy Senior Center
- Westminster Senior High Rise
- Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Maryland Partnership for Prevention
- Delmarva Foundation for Quality Medical Care
- Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services
- Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Johns Hopkins School of Nursing
- University of Maryland Hospital
- University of Maryland School of Nursing
- Lexington Market
- Enoch Pratt Free Library
- St. Augustine's Church (Cherry Hill)
- New Psalmist Baptist Church
- Zeta Center

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., R.S.
Interim Commissioner
1001 E. Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to update you on Baltimore City's plan for immunizing students against the influenza virus this year. As you may know, the new influenza virus, the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, is now the primary flu virus circulating in our community and schools. As a result, we will no longer provide seasonal flu vaccinations and focus instead on preventing H1N1. We are providing new information about the H1N1 vaccine with this letter, along with consent forms that must be signed for your child to receive the vaccination. Consent forms that you may have already completed and returned for seasonal flu cannot be used for the H1N1 vaccine

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this virus. Please review the enclosed information, and if you decide you want your child to receive the H1N1 vaccination, **please complete the consent form and return it to his or her school by Friday, October 30.**

The Baltimore City Health Department will make the H1N1 vaccine available at no cost to Baltimore City Public Schools students through school-based clinics beginning in early November. The vaccine is now available from health care providers and at community medical clinics and Health Department community clinics. A list of these Health Department clinics can be found at www.baltimorehealth.org. If you have questions about the vaccination clinics, please call Baltimore City's 311 information line. You can also find information about the vaccine at www.flu.gov, and useful flu information for parents at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents.

Your child's school will let you know the specific dates that Health Department nursing staff will be vaccinating students.

Below are some other, simple ways you can help keep your children healthy this fall:

- **Teach your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. Scrub vigorously for 20 seconds.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues.
- **Cover coughs or sneezes** using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.

If your child does become sick and develop a fever, please keep them home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine. Keeping sick children at home will get them healthy sooner, and it will reduce the number of other people who may get infected. By working together, we can help keep all Baltimore City school children healthy this school year.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Olivia D. Farrow in black ink.

Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., R.S.
Interim Commissioner of Health

Handwritten signature of Andrés A. Alonso in black ink.

Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
CEO, Baltimore City Public Schools