

Wellesley Public Schools

Bella T. Wong
Superintendent of Schools



October 20, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians of Middle and High School students,

The response to the survey regarding in-school flu shots was overwhelmingly positive. The deadline for filing responses was last Friday. There was a 70% response overall from Middle School families, and 90% of those families indicated an interest in having their children receive in-school flu shots. There was a 90% overall response from the High School, with 85% of those families indicating interest in having their children receive in-school flu shots.

Last week before the actual close of the survey when it became apparent that the responses were trending toward significant interest, I did contact the Health Department with that information to see what we could do to start planning. The additional survey information through the end of the week helped us better assess the scale of effort that would be required. Your participation made this a very helpful tool for planning. The request for vaccine had been made, and we were working internally to set aside possible dates for vaccination clinics.

However, I am sorry now to inform you that I learned last night that the Department of Public Health has advised local health departments that because the availability of H1N1 vaccine is indeterminate, school-wide clinics should not be scheduled through November. As you may have been hearing through the general media, this is the apparent situation in many locations. Clinics already scheduled in other school districts have been cancelled as well.

My purpose in writing you today is to quickly inform you that we will be unable to provide school-wide flu shots through November. I know this news will disappoint many of you. I am disappointed as well. I plan to write you again within a few days to provide additional update.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bella T. Wong".

Bella T. Wong
Superintendent of Schools