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# BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION

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For Immediate Release

November 12, 2009

## **BTF CALLS FOR STATE AND FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF ERIE COUNTY SWINE FLU VACCINE DISTRIBUTION**

The BTF today called for both New York State and Federal investigations of Erie County's decision, as reported in the 11/12/09 *Buffalo News*, to withhold the swine flu vaccine from schools and community centers until the demand from private doctors is met.

The decision is "nothing less than an attack on the many people without jobs and those without healthcare" BTF President, Philip Rumore, stated in a letter to State and Federal officials.

See letter (below) sent to: 1) Richard F. Daines, M.D., Commissioner, NYS Department of Health; 2) Dr. David M. Steiner, Commissioner, NYS Department of Education; 3) Dr. Regina M. Benjamin, United States Surgeon General; 4) Arne Duncan, Secretary, United States Department of Education and cc: Frank Mesiah, NAACP.

"The Buffalo Teachers Federation requests an immediate emergency investigation of Erie County's decision to withhold the swine flu vaccine from schools and community centers until the demand from private doctors is met.

Dr. Billittier's statements in the enclosed *Buffalo News* article are nothing less than a discriminatory attack on the poor, the many people without jobs and those without healthcare.

In our opinion, the policy Erie County has developed is a violation of, if not the letter of the law, the spirit and intent of the law.

We ask for an immediate investigation of Erie County's discriminatory policy and swift action on behalf of those whose lives have been put at risk based on this decision."

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