



October 22, 2009

Dear Washtenaw County Parents and Guardians:

The H1N1 influenza virus continues to circulate in our community. Several area schools are reporting increased absences due to flu-like illness, and the amount of H1N1 vaccine available locally is very limited. Until H1N1 vaccine supplies are more plentiful, vaccination clinics planned at local schools will serve only prioritized, high-risk individuals in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please review the priority groups below carefully. A consent form and additional vaccine and clinic information are included.

Individuals within these priority groups are currently eligible for H1N1 vaccination:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers of children under 6 months of age
- Children 6 months though 4 years
- Children 5 to 18 years who have medical conditions associated with a higher risk of influenza complications (such as asthma or diabetes)
- Health care and EMS personnel who provide direct patient care

H1N1 Priority Group Vaccination Clinics. Hours are while supplies last.

Date	Location	Time
Tuesday, Oct 27	Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) facility	3:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Monday, Nov 2	Ypsilanti High School	10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Tuesday, Nov 3	Creekside Intermediate School, Dexter	10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Thursday, Nov 5	Ann Arbor Huron High School	2:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Friday, Nov 6	Milan High School	11:00 am to 7:00 pm

If you or your children are among those prioritized, you may go to any of the clinics listed. Bring your completed, signed consent form or forms with you, if possible, to speed processing. Forms will also be available online and at the vaccination site.

There will be more opportunities for vaccination, as more H1N1 vaccine becomes available locally. We appreciate your patience with this process.

Sincerely,

Diana Torres-Burgos, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Washtenaw County Public Health



H1N1 Vaccination Clinics

What to Expect at the H1N1 Vaccination Clinic

All persons entering the H1N1 vaccination clinic will be asked general screening questions regarding their health and the high-risk priority groups. After the vaccine is administered by a health professional, all persons will be asked to wait ten minutes.

If your child is a sixth grade student or older, he or she may receive a vaccination with a signed consent form. All younger children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Is H1N1 Vaccination Mandatory?

No. H1N1 vaccination is voluntary.

Who Can or Cannot Receive H1N1 Vaccine

H1N1 vaccine supplies are currently very limited. At this time, H1N1 vaccine is only available to those at greater risk of illness and of serious complications:

- pregnant women;
- household contacts and caregivers of infants under 6 months;
- children 6 months to 4 years; children 5 to 18 years who have underlying medical conditions (see below); and
- health care and EMS personnel with direct patient contact.

Unless an individual had a laboratory confirmed case of H1N1 influenza, H1N1 vaccination is recommended.

People with severe egg allergies should not be vaccinated.

What are the Medical Conditions Associated with a Higher Risk of Influenza Complications?

Certain medical conditions put people at greater risk of serious complications from influenza. Those conditions include:

- neuromuscular disorders
- chronic lung diseases such as asthma
- weakened immune systems
- cardiovascular disease such as congenital heart disorders
- diabetes, kidney or liver disorders
- cancer
- blood disorders

Please see the CDC's H1N1 web pages for more information:
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>.



2009 H1N1 Vaccine Safety

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this disease. The H1N1 vaccine is produced in the same manner and by the same manufacturers as the seasonal flu vaccine. Seasonal flu vaccine has an excellent safety record; 100 million people receive it every year. Early clinical studies of the H1N1 vaccine have shown reactions similar to seasonal flu vaccine.

Types of H1N1 Vaccine

The H1N1 vaccine is available in two formulations, nasal spray (FluMist) and flu shots. The nasal spray is approved for use in healthy people age two years to 49 years of age who are not pregnant. The flu shot is approved for use in people six months of age and older, including pregnant women and people with chronic medical conditions.

Vaccine availability of the two vaccines may vary due to limited supplies.

Other Questions

If you have additional questions, please call our Public Health nurses and health educators at 734-544-6700 or visit www.ewashtenaw.org/flu. Language translation is available by phone.

