

## **H1N1 Influenza (Flu) Vaccine Information for Parents**

**October 21, 2009**

### **When will H1N1 vaccine be available for my child?**

Vaccine is arriving slowly in very small amounts to Clay County Public Health. Children are a vaccination priority and will be offered vaccine just as soon as the supply is adequate.

### **Will vaccine be offered at school?**

Yes, however a specific date has not been set. When a sufficient amount arrives, the vaccine will be administered at school to children who have a parent-signed consent form returned to their school.

### **Will I need to be with my child at school when he/she receives the vaccination?**

No, but you are welcome to be with your child during the vaccination.

### **How much will it cost?**

There is no charge for the vaccine.

### **Will my child need two doses of H1N1 flu vaccine?**

Children 9 years of age and younger will need to receive two doses of H1N1 vaccine, at least 21 days apart, preferably 28 days apart. (Note: this is different from seasonal flu vaccine which is 8 years of age and younger.) An opportunity for this second dose will be offered again at school or in a public clinic. Watch for details from your child's school or the local media.

### **What types of H1N1 vaccine are available?**

There are two types: the nasal spray or the injection ("shot"). However, the vaccine will be available in largest amounts in the shot form. So it is likely that this is the type of vaccine that will be given to your child.

### **Is the H1N1 vaccine safe?**

Clinical trials have shown that the vaccination is both safe and effective. The H1N1 vaccine is made by the same manufacturers and produced through the same process as the seasonal flu vaccine.

### **Is the H1N1 vaccine mandatory for my child?**

Although recommended, the H1N1 flu vaccination is not being mandated by public health for anyone in Iowa.

### **Should my child get BOTH the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine?**

Both are recommended for children. Because H1N1 virus appeared late in the spring, it was not able to be added to this year's seasonal flu vaccine, which went into production in January. This is the reason we have two separate flu shots this fall.

### **Do doses of the seasonal flu vaccine AND the H1N1 vaccine need to be separated by any specific time frame?**

They can be given at any time, in any sequence, and in any combination in relation to each other, with one exception: when using the nasal spray vaccine for both, they should be separated by 28 days.

### **If my child was already diagnosed with H1N1 flu, does he need to be vaccinated?**

The only people who do not need a vaccination are those who have had a lab confirmed case of H1N1 Flu.

### **In addition to the vaccination, what can my family do to stay well during this flu season?**

Remember **the three C's**:

- **Clean** your hands frequently;
- **Cover** your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve; and
- **Contain** germs by staying home when ill.

### **Where can I get up-to-date information?**

Spencer Hospital website: <http://www.spencerhospital.org/healthwellness>

Iowa Department of Public Health website: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1>

IDPH 24/7 Call Center 1-800-447-1985

Clay County Public Health 712-264-6380