



Medford Township Public Schools

Voluntary School-Based H1N1 Vaccination Clinics

PARENT GUIDE

Includes:

Tentative Clinic Schedule

Questions and Answers

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

As you know, we have been working collaboratively with the Burlington County Health Department in planning school-based clinics for administration of the H1N1 vaccine. Student participation in the vaccine initiative is **VOLUNTARY**.

We have tentatively established clinic dates as November 16 and 17, **provided the county receives a sufficient supply of vaccine**. Our schools have been scheduled as follows:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009
Haines, Kirby's Mill and Memorial

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2009
Allen, Chairville, Cranberry Pines and Taunton Forge

According to the Center for Disease Control, children ages 9 and younger will require a second dose of the vaccine at least 21 days following their first inoculation. The dates of the follow-up clinics have been scheduled for **Monday, December 7, and Tuesday, December 8**. Further information regarding these clinics will be forthcoming.

Two types of H1N1 vaccine (nasal spray mist and injectable) will be available to our students. The Health Department is requesting that all students **receive the nasal spray mist unless** they have one of the following underlying conditions:

DIABETES, HISTORY OF HEART DISEASE, HISTORY OF ASTHMA, KIDNEY DISEASE, LUNG DISEASE OR ANYONE WITH A WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEM. MUSCLE OR NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER.

If you are planning to have you child receive the H1N1 vaccine, the Health Department requires that you complete the following forms:

- 1) **Screening Questionnaire for Intranasal Influenza Vaccination**, and
- 2) Either the **Intranasal Influenza Vaccine Consent Form** or the **Injectable Influenza Vaccine Consent Form**.

The Health Department is in the process of making these forms available to parents on-line. To date, they have not provided us with a link for completion of the on-line forms. As soon as the Health Department notifies us that the link is active, we will post the information on the district's website, and notify you via e-mail or hard copy. Please check our website daily.

Thank you for your patience as we work with the Health Department in providing the H1N1 vaccine to our students. As always, our school nurses and building administrators will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this initiative.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHO WILL RECEIVE THE H1N1 VACCINE?

Medford Township Public Schools is hosting school-based clinics at the request of the Burlington County Health Department in the hopes of vaccinating as many children as possible. **This is a voluntary program.** In order for a student to be vaccinated during the clinic, parents must complete and return the authorized consent form which has been supplied by the county. No child will be vaccinated without specific written parent permission via the authorized consent form. **Our in-school clinics are open only to students currently enrolled in the Medford Township Public Schools.**

WHY IS THE VACCINE BEING ADMINISTERED DURING SCHOOL HOURS?

Our decision to schedule clinics during the school day was based on two primary factors. First, committing to daytime clinics places Medford Township Public Schools higher on the priority list to receive vaccine supplies. In addition, school age children are among the key populations identified by the CDC as being at higher risk of disease and who are likely to come in contact with H1N1 flu. It is recommended that these populations be vaccinated first. Our plan is to provide protection to children from the H1N1 flu with minimal interruption to students' regular schedules.

WILL OUR SCHOOL NURSES BE ADMINISTERING THE VACCINE?

No. Certified personnel provided by the Burlington County Health Department will administer the vaccinations. Our school nurses will serve as operational managers of the clinics.

WILL MY CHILD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE IF HE OR SHE ATTENDS AN OUT-OF-DISTRICT PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE DISTRICT?

Yes. Once you have completed the required forms you will need to deliver them to the office of your child's home school. The school will notify you of the time your child is scheduled to be vaccinated. You will be responsible for your child's transportation to and from the clinic.

WHO SHOULD BE VACCINATED?

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has identified several priority groups that are recommended to receive the H1N1 vaccination:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency services personnel who have direct patient contact
- Persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age
- People ages 25 through 64 years with chronic health disorders or weakened immune systems

IS THE VACCINE MANDATORY?

No, the vaccine is not mandatory. Some parents may choose not to have their child vaccinated.

IS THIS AVAILABLE TO ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN?

The Burlington County Health Department has offered to coordinate H1N1 flu vaccine clinics to all schools in the county.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Vaccine administered as part of school-based H1N1 flu vaccination clinics will be provided free of charge.

CAN I BE PRESENT WHILE MY CHILD RECEIVES THE VACCINE AT SCHOOL?

Parents may accompany their child for the vaccination. Since there is a limited supply of vaccine, nurses will only be able to administer vaccine to enrolled students. Parents/Guardians will be

notified by the school principal of the time when their child's class is scheduled to receive the vaccination.

WHAT IF MY CHILD BECOMES UPSET?

Nurses will not be able to administer vaccine to children who become overly anxious and/or uncooperative. Parents/Guardians will be notified in writing if we are unable to administer the vaccine to your child.

CAN I HAVE MY CHILD VACCINATED AT THE PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE RATHER THAN AT SCHOOL?

Yes, your child may receive the vaccination through your primary care provider (pediatrician or family physician). You will need to contact their office to inquire about vaccine availability.

IF MY CHILD IS VACCINATED AT THE PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE, DOES THE SCHOOL NEED A RECORD?

No, the school does not need a record if the child receives the H1N1 vaccine from their primary care provider.

CAN MY OTHER CHILDREN GET THE VACCINE AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC?

Our school-based clinics will serve to vaccinate only students currently enrolled in the district. Others in the key populations are encouraged to seek the vaccine through their health care provider.

HOW MANY DOSES OF H1N1 FLU VACCINE WILL BE NEEDED?

Preliminary clinical trial results indicate that one dose will be effective for healthy children ages 10 to 17. Children 6 months to 9 years will require two doses. This is similar to CDC recommendations for seasonal flu vaccine.

WHY DO YOUNGER CHILDREN NEED TWO DOSES?

Young children do not have as mature an immune system as adults and may not have had prior exposure to flu. The likelihood that you have had exposure to flu virus increases with age. Young children also need two doses of the seasonal flu vaccine the first time they receive it. This is the normal recommendation each flu season.

WHEN WILL THE SECOND DOSE BE PROVIDED?

The second dose of H1N1 flu vaccine will need to be administered 21 days after the first dose is received. The Burlington County Health Department will also coordinate school-based vaccination clinics for students that meet this requirement.

WILL SEASONAL FLU VACCINE BE OFFERED IN SCHOOLS?

No, the Burlington County Health Department will not administer seasonal flu vaccine in the schools. Families are encouraged to seek the vaccine through their normal flu vaccine provider.

WILL THE SEASONAL FLU VACCINE ALSO PROTECT AGAINST THE H1N1 FLU?

The usual seasonal influenza viruses are still expected to cause illness this fall and winter. Individuals are encouraged to get their seasonal flu vaccine as soon as it is available from their regular flu shot provider. The seasonal flu vaccine is not expected to protect against the H1N1 flu. Children will need to receive additional vaccine to protect against seasonal flu. As well, the H1N1 flu vaccine is not expected to protect against seasonal flu. Contact your healthcare provider or visit the Burlington County Health Department's website to find seasonal flu vaccine locations.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH H1N1 FLU VACCINE?

During clinical trials, no serious adverse effects were identified with H1N1 flu vaccine. This vaccine has a very similar profile to seasonal flu vaccine. However, there is always some degree of redness and swelling with all injections – H1N1 flu vaccine should be no different. **We urge you to visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine_safety.htm for more complete information.**