

Village of Skokie



H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) Vaccination Clinics
Frequently Asked Questions
December 7, 2009

Vaccine Safety

The H1N1 vaccine is made by the same manufacturers, using the same processes and facilities that are used to make the seasonal flu vaccines. The H1N1 vaccine has been tested more extensively than seasonal influenza vaccine, and has been safely used in children, pregnant women, and adults.

Millions of doses have been given nationally without serious adverse reactions.

A few people should not receive influenza vaccination. Any individual who has had a serious, life-threatening reaction to eggs or a previous dose of influenza vaccine should seek an H1N1 vaccination from their doctor.

Second Dose Required for Children Under Age 10

Children under 10 years of age will need a second dose of vaccine for full protection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that the two doses of the H1N1 vaccine be separated by four weeks, but if the second dose is given at least 21 days after the first dose, the second dose can be considered valid. There is no maximum time period between vaccinations, just the minimum time period of at least three weeks. Either the spray or injectable form of the vaccine can be used for both doses of the vaccine. Those seeking an H1N1 booster shot for their child should contact their physician or their county health department.

Information for People Age 65 and Older

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, People age 65 and older are not in a priority group to receive H1N1 vaccine. This is because the H1N1 virus is impacting children and young adults at a far greater rate than people age 65 and older. There are reports that older adults might have some immunity to the H1N1 flu virus as it is similar to influenza viruses that circulated in the 1950's and earlier.

The Village is concerned about older residents and encourages anyone age 65 and older to contact their doctor about receiving an H1N1 vaccination. As soon as an adequate supply of H1N1 vaccine is available for the priority groups, the Village expects to be able to offer vaccinations to older residents.