



H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) Vaccination Clinics  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Updated  
November 11, 2009

**H1N1 Community Vaccination Clinics Canceled Due to Vaccine Shortage**

Due to a nation-wide shortage of H1N1 flu vaccine, the Village of Skokie is canceling the community H1N1 immunization clinics set for December 6, 9 and 12. These clinics might be rescheduled at a later date if the Village receives an adequate supply of vaccine from the federal government. **The H1N1 vaccination clinic set for Thursday, December 3, 2009, will still take place at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. but vaccinations will only be given to pregnant women and children age 18 and younger. Vaccinations will not be given to people who do not fall into these priority groups.**

The Village has an additional 20,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine on order but has no estimated delivery date for the vaccine. **For up-to-date information on the Village's H1N1 vaccination efforts, including possible rescheduling of community clinics if adequate vaccine supply becomes available, please check [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org), tune in to 1660 AM Skokie radio or call the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.**

**IMPORTANT ALERT:** As of 11-01-09 the predominant form of the vaccine that is available in Skokie is the nasal spray. In order to ensure that all students and staff, including pregnant women and persons with underlying health conditions, have the opportunity to be vaccinated, we are requesting that students and staff who do not have a contraindication receive the nasal spray formulation.

All children over the age of two years who attend Skokie schools and daycare facilities will receive the nasal spray formulation of the vaccine unless the consent form signed by the parent/guardian has documented a medical reason to not give the nasal spray.

The Skokie Health Department has ordered an additional 20,000 doses of injectable vaccine but has no estimated delivery date for the vaccine. Parents who prefer to have their child only receive the injectable form of the vaccine should check [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org), tune to 1660 AM Skokie or call the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252 regularly for updates and possible community clinic rescheduling.

## **General Questions**

### **Why is the Skokie Health Department holding H1N1 vaccination clinics in schools?**

Based upon current epidemiology it is expected that the majority of infections and hospitalizations will occur in persons less than 20 years of age; prevention efforts are focusing on children and schools initially. In the spring, 82% of infections among Skokie residents occurred in children and young persons. The Skokie Health Department is holding vaccination clinics in schools and daycare facilities as the best means of ensuring that children are vaccinated as quickly as possible in order to prevent H1N1 infection.

### **How will adults receive H1N1 vaccine?**

In mid-November, the Village of Skokie released a supply of H1N1 vaccine to physicians' offices in Skokie, and residents are encouraged to contact their physician about obtaining a vaccination. Adults in the initial target groups (persons age 19 to 24 years, healthcare workers, pregnant women, and adults 25 to 64 years of age with medical conditions) should seek vaccination from the private healthcare system initially. Pregnant women can attend the H1N1 vaccination clinic on December 3, 2009 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street. This is a walk-in clinic; appointments are not necessary and there is no cost for the vaccine.

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## **School Vaccination Clinic Operation Details**

**Will I have to pay for my child's H1N1 vaccination?** All H1N1 vaccinations given through the Skokie Health Department school clinics are free.

### **Can parents or siblings come to the school H1N1 vaccination clinics and receive a vaccine?**

H1N1 vaccinations will only be given to students and faculty at each school. Parents will need to obtain their H1N1 vaccination through their private physician or a retail pharmacy. Pregnant women or children age 18 and younger can attend the Skokie Health Department's H1N1 vaccination clinic on December 3 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street. This is a walk-in clinic; appointments are not necessary and there is no cost for the vaccine. Due to the national H1N1 vaccine shortage, vaccinations will only be given to pregnant women and children age 18 and younger at the December 3 clinic. Vaccinations will not be given to people who do not fall into these priority groups.

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**Can I come to school to help my child through the vaccination process?** Parents are encouraged to come to school to assist their child through the H1N1 vaccination clinic.

**What if my child is absent the day of their school clinic?** Children who miss their school H1N1 vaccination clinic will need to obtain their vaccination through their private physician, a retail pharmacy or attend the Skokie Health Department's H1N1 vaccination clinic on December 3 from 2 to 7 p.m. at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street. This is a walk-in clinic limited to pregnant women and children age 18 or younger; appointments are not necessary and there is no cost for the vaccine.

### **Information for Parents of Skokie Children who Attend School Outside of Skokie**

**We live in Skokie but my child does not attend a Skokie school. How can he or she get an H1N1 vaccine?** Children who live in Skokie but do not attend a Skokie school will need to obtain their H1N1 vaccination through their private physician, a retail pharmacy or the Skokie Health Department's H1N1 vaccination clinic on December 3 from 2 to 7 p.m. at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street. This is a walk-in clinic; appointments are not necessary and there is no cost for the vaccine.

### **Type of Vaccine – Spray or Injectable Form**

**All children over the age of two years who attend Skokie schools and daycare facilities will receive the nasal spray formulation of the vaccine unless the consent form signed by the parent/guardian has documented a medical reason to not give the nasal spray.**

**This change is being implemented now because the Skokie Health Department has not received all doses of the injectable vaccine that was ordered. Parents who prefer the injectable form of the vaccine may be able to have their child vaccinated during the planned community clinics in December, if sufficient vaccine is available.**

- **Infants under six months of age** – will not receive vaccine; it is not effective as their immune system does not respond to the vaccine. Instead, an H1N1 flu shot should be given to caregivers and parents (see below).
- **Infants 6 months through 24 months of age** – will receive the H1N1 vaccine shot as the nasal spray has not been approved for this age group.
- **All children over the age of two years** - will receive the nasal spray form of the vaccine. All children over the age of two years who attend Skokie schools and daycare facilities will receive the nasal spray formulation of the vaccine unless the consent form signed by the parent/guardian has documented a medical reason to not give the nasal spray.  
**(Updated 10/29/09)**
- **Can older children who don't like shots, or older special needs children, receive the nasal spray instead of the shot form?** YES. **(Updated 10/29/09)**
- **Parents of infants under six months of age** can come to their day care center's vaccination clinic and receive an H1N1 vaccination or seek a vaccination through their

physician or a retail pharmacy. Due to a nation-wide shortage of H1N1 flu vaccine, the Village of Skokie is canceling the community H1N1 immunization clinics set for December 6, 9 and 12. These clinics might be rescheduled at a later date if the Village receives an adequate supply of vaccine from the federal government. The Village has an additional 20,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine on order but has no estimated delivery date for the vaccine. **For up-to-date information on the Village's H1N1 vaccination efforts, including possible rescheduling of community clinics if adequate vaccine supply becomes available, please check [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org), tune in to 1660 AM Skokie radio or call the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.**

### **Second Dose Required for Children under Age 10**

**Will my child need a second dose of vaccine for full protection?** 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.

**How can I get my young child their required second dose of the H1N1 vaccine?** Parents should schedule the second vaccine dose through their private physician or attend the Skokie Health Department's H1N1 vaccination clinic on December 3 from 2 to 7 p.m. at Oakton Park, 4701 Oakton Street. This is a walk-in clinic limited to pregnant women and children age 18 and under; appointments are not necessary and there is no cost for the vaccine. There might be additional second-dose vaccination clinics during the winter months if the Village receives more H1N1 vaccine, but plans are uncertain at this time. Please check [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) for updates.

### **Medical Questions**

**My child has a medical condition. Can he or she receive the vaccine?** Children with a medical condition such as asthma, diabetes, etc., should not receive the nasal spray form of the H1N1 vaccine but can receive the shot. Please call your doctor if you have questions about your child's specific medical condition and their ability to receive the vaccine.

**My child received the nasal spray form of the seasonal flu vaccine this year. Can he or she receive the nasal spray form of the H1N1 vaccine?** Please notify your facility administration or school nurse if this is the case with your child as your child might not be eligible to receive the nasal form of the H1N1 vaccine. There should be four weeks (28 days) between doses of the seasonal nasal spray and H1N1 nasal spray. The seasonal and H1N1 injections can be given at any time in relation to each other or to either nasal spray.

**My child has a cold. Can they still receive the H1N1 vaccine?** Children with a cold but no fever can receive the vaccine. Children with a fever should not receive the vaccine.

**My child is allergic to eggs. Can he or she still receive the H1N1 vaccine?** Children who are allergic to eggs should not receive the H1N1 vaccine. If the consent form indicates an allergy to one of the vaccine components, the child will not receive a vaccination. Please consult your physician for more information.

### **Vaccine Safety**

**Is the vaccine safe?** 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.

**Will the H1N1 vaccine contain thimerosal?** At present, the injectable form of the vaccine is only available in multi-dose vials, which contain trace amounts of thimerosal as a preservative. Multiple studies have been conducted and no harmful effects have been identified from exposure to thimerosal. Hundreds of millions of people receive influenza vaccine preserved with thimerosal each year without ill effects.

**Will the H1N1 vaccine my child receives come from a single, pre-prepared dose (with no preservatives) or will it be drawn from a multi-dose vial (and contain preservatives)?**

Although single-dose, preservative-free injectable vaccine will be available in the future, it is not expected to arrive until November at the earliest. Until then, Skokie school H1N1 vaccination clinics will use multi-dose vials of the vaccine. Unfortunately, the virus is already circulating in the community, causing outbreaks in area schools and serious complications in some children. Very young children are more likely to have serious complications from influenza than older children.

For additional information: [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general\\_info.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm)