



H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) Vaccination Clinics
Frequently Asked Questions
October 20, 2009

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?

Private physician practices and retail pharmacies should receive a supply of H1N1 vaccine soon. Adults in the initial target groups (persons age 19 – 24 years, healthcare workers, pregnant women, and adults 25-64 years with medical conditions) should seek vaccination from the private healthcare system initially. Skokie residents who have not been vaccinated by December are welcome to receive vaccination during one of the planned Health Department large community clinics. The clinics will be open to all Skokie residents and children attending a Skokie school, preschool or day care center. They will be held at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street, on December 3 and 9 from noon to 8 p.m. and on December 6 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. These are walk-in clinics and appointments are not necessary. Proof of Skokie residency or enrollment at a Skokie school required.

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 and siblings will need to obtain their H1N1 vaccination through their private physician, a retail pharmacy or attend one of the Skokie Health Department's community H1N1 vaccination clinics in December. The clinics will be open to any Skokie resident and children attending a Skokie school, preschool or day care center. They will be held at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street, on December 3 and 9 from noon to 8 p.m. and on December 6 and 12 from 9 a.m.

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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 one of the Skokie Health Department's community H1N1 vaccination clinics in December. The clinics will be open to any Skokie resident and children attending a Skokie school, preschool or day care center. They will be held at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street, on December 3 and 9 from noon to 8 p.m. and on December 6 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. These are walk-in clinics and appointments are not necessary. Proof of Skokie residency or enrollment at a Skokie school required.

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 attend one of the Skokie Health Department's community H1N1 vaccination clinics in December. The clinics will be open to any Skokie resident and children attending a Skokie school, preschool or day care center. They will be held at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street, on December 3 and 9 from noon to 8 p.m. and on December 6 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. These are walk-in clinics and appointments are not necessary. Proof of Skokie residency or enrollment at a Skokie school required.

Type of Vaccine – Spray or Injectable Form

- **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.
- **Children age two years through second grade (regardless of age)** - will receive the nasal spray form of the vaccine unless the consent form signed by the parent/guardian contains a note indicating a preference for the shot form of the vaccine. Children with underlying medical conditions (asthma, diabetes, heart disease, etc) should not receive the nasal spray. These children should receive the shot.
- **Children from 3rd grade through high school** – will receive the injection form of the vaccine.
- **Can older children who don't like shots, or older special needs children, receive the nasal spray instead of the shot form?** No. Because supplies are limited, the mist form of the vaccine is being used only on children ages 2 through second grade (regardless of their age).

- **Parents of infants under six months of age** can come to their day care center's vaccination clinic and receive an H1N1 vaccination. They also can attend one of the Skokie Health Department's community H1N1 vaccination clinics. The clinics will be open to any Skokie resident and children attending a Skokie school, preschool or day care center. They will be held at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street, on December 3 and 9 from noon to 8 p.m. and on December 6 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. These are walk-in clinics and appointments are not necessary. Proof of Skokie residency or enrollment at a Skokie school required.

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 one of the Skokie Health Department's community H1N1 vaccination clinics in December. Retail pharmacists are not licensed to administer vaccine to children this young. The Village of Skokie community H1N1 vaccination clinics will be open to any Skokie resident and children attending a Skokie school, preschool or day care center. They will be held at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street, on December 3 and 9 from noon to 8 p.m. and on December 6 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. These are walk-in clinics and appointments are not necessary. Proof of Skokie residency or enrollment at a Skokie school required. There might be additional second-dose vaccination clinics during the winter months but plans are uncertain at this time. Please check 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. This will depend on when the seasonal flu vaccine nasal spray was given to your child.

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.