



Village Hall

5127 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077

Phone (847) 673-0500
Fax (847) 673-0525

www.skokie.org
SkokieVision Municipal Cable
1660 AM Skokie

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Gold Level Clean Air Counts
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Association Budget Award
Government Finance Officers
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Achievement for Excellence in
Financial Reporting
Insurance Services Office (ISO)
Class One Fire Department
State of Illinois Certified Health
Department
Tree City U.S.A. Distinction

Village of Skokie

Health Department
847-933-8252

October 5, 2009

To: All Parents and Guardians of Children attending School, Preschool, or
Daycare in the Village of Skokie

From: Catherine A. Counard, M.D., M.P.H.; Director of Health

Re: Skokie Health Department Plan to Offer 2009 H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu)
Vaccinations

The Health Department will be offering 2009 H1N1 vaccine at all 42 schools, preschools, and daycare facilities in Skokie during October and November. Although many children will be able to receive vaccine through their doctor's office, because all children between 6 months and 18 years of age in the United States should be vaccinated, it will likely not be possible for medical practices to vaccinate every child during the next few months. The Health Department is collaborating with the Administrator of the facility where your child attends school or receives care to ensure that your child has access to vaccine. A letter from your Administrator, with specific information for your child's clinic, accompanies this announcement.

Clinic Information

- The clinic will be conducted by the Health Department at the school or daycare, and will be for children and staff of the facility.
- Each school or daycare will have one clinic.
- Vaccine will be administered free of charge.
- Vaccination is voluntary, and vaccine will only be given to children who have a Consent Form signed by a parent or guardian.
- Parents of young children (second grade and younger) are encouraged to be present during the clinic when your child is vaccinated. Parents of older children are also welcome to be present if desired.
- If your child is unable to participate in the clinic held at school or daycare, they may receive 2009 H1N1 vaccine during the Health Department's large community vaccination clinics scheduled for the first two weeks of December. These clinics will be open to Skokie residents and children attending school, preschool, or daycare in Skokie.

Form of Vaccine Offered

- Similar to seasonal influenza vaccine, the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine will be available as a nasal spray (also known as “Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine” or “LAIV) and a shot. The majority of vaccine will be in the injectable form. Vaccine information sheets for both forms of the vaccine accompany this announcement.
- The nasal spray is approved for persons 2 – 49 years old who have no medical conditions. If your child has a medical condition (asthma, diabetes, etc), he/she should not receive the nasal spray. If you have any questions about your child’s specific medical condition please call your doctor.
- The Health Department will have a small amount of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine available as the nasal spray. This form of the vaccine will be prioritized for young children (second grade or younger), however we cannot say with certainty at this time which form of the vaccine will be available for a specific clinic date.
- If your child is older than second grade, it is likely that they will receive the influenza shot during clinic. Children between 6 months and two years of age will also receive the influenza shot as the nasal spray has not been approved for this age group.
- If your child received seasonal influenza as a nasal spray, in the past four weeks, please notify your facility Administration or School Nurse. Your child may not be eligible to receive the nasal form of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine.
- Children less than 10 years of age should receive two doses of vaccine, spaced at least 21 days apart, in order to have full protection. The second dose of vaccine can be administered by your child’s doctor, during the December community 2009 H1N1 vaccination clinics mentioned above, or during a later Health Department clinic. The Health Department will ensure that your child is able to receive both doses of vaccine.

Final messages

- The 2009 H1N1 vaccine does not protect against other seasonal influenza viruses which are also expected to circulate this winter. Please have your child vaccinated against seasonal influenza.
- Please do not send your child to school if your child is ill with fever, sore throat or cough. Your child may return to school after they have been without fever for 24 hours.
- If you have questions about the clinic logistics or forms that must be completed, please contact your school, preschool or daycare administration. If you have questions about influenza virus, the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, or who should be vaccinated, you are welcome to call the Health Department at 847-933-8252.
- Additional information is available on the Skokie website located at www.skokie.org. Skokie residents are also encouraged to sign up to receive E-news updates (a link is on the Village website) or tune in to radio 1660 AM.

Sincerely,



Catherine A. Counard, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health