



Allen County Health Department
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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Public Health Flu Update

From: David Rosebrock, MPH
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Update as of December 11, 2009

- o Activity Update
- o 2009 H1N1 Vaccine (Swine Flu)
- o Community Guidance

Activity Update for Allen County, Ohio and Nationally

- Locally, school symptom surveillance shows the number of students with influenza symptoms continues to decrease.
- Ohio's Flu Activity Status has been downgraded to regional activity. This designation means that less than half of Ohio's regions are reporting lab-confirmed influenza cases.
- CDC is reporting that influenza activity continues to decrease nationwide. Currently, twenty-five states are reporting widespread flu activity. (Forty-six states reported widespread activity at the beginning of November.)

2009 H1N1 Vaccine

Changes in Who Can be Vaccinated

- Although H1N1 vaccine can be given to anyone who wants it as of December 14, the Health Department is **not** taking appointments at this time due to our vaccination clinics for students that are being held in each school district.
- **The Health Department will announce through the local media when we are able to schedule appointments again. This will be based on vaccine availability.**
- At this time, people who would like to get vaccinated against H1N1 can check with their doctor's office for availability and watch for other opportunities in the community to be vaccinated.

School-based Clinics

- We have scheduled H1N1 vaccination clinics in each of the Allen County school districts through the month of December to reach students in Kindergarten -12th grade. A [county-wide school district schedule](#) is available on our website. Vaccination is voluntary.
- Clinics in Allen East, Bath, Bluffton, Delphos and Elida have run smoothly with little or no waiting. Clinics will be held in Perry and Spencerville, 12/14; Lima City, 12/15 & 12/16, and Shawnee, 12/17. Call 419-228-INFO (4636), Option 5, for more information.
- **If students cannot attend the clinic in the district in which they live, they're welcome to attend any of the remaining school-based clinics.**
- These walk-in school clinics are for children in grades K-12 and appointments are not needed.

Second Doses

- Children under age 10 who have received one dose of H1N1 vaccine should be scheduling an appointment to get a second dose. There must be at least 28 days between the first and second dose. Children under 10 are not fully protected until after they receive their second dose. This is the only age group that requires two doses of vaccine. Parents should call 419-228-INFO (4636) to schedule an appointment through the Health Department.

Vaccine Safety

- Getting the H1N1 influenza vaccine is much safer than getting H1N1 influenza. You can prevent 2009 H1N1 influenza illness by getting the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.
- The benefits of getting the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine far outweigh the very small risk of serious complications from vaccination. Some people getting vaccinated will have mild side effects such as pain, redness or swelling in the arm where the shot was given or a runny nose and headache after the nasal spray vaccine.
- The safety record of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine is similar to seasonal flu vaccine. CDC and FDA continue to track reports of adverse events following vaccination using multiple systems. No new or unusual events or pattern of adverse events have emerged.

Community Guidance - Influenza Illness and Disease

- Flu is unpredictable. Flu activity may continue for several weeks and it's possible that other waves of influenza may occur caused by 2009 H1N1 or regular seasonal flu viruses.
- The 2009 H1N1 influenza virus is the predominant influenza virus in circulation in most countries worldwide.
- Reports of flu are decreasing, but are still higher than normal for this time of the year. At the same time vaccine supply is increasing. This is the time for people to get vaccinated against the flu, before any possible new wave of disease.
- People in high risk groups should talk to their doctor or health care provider as soon as possible if they think they may have the flu because they have a greater chance of getting serious flu complications than other persons.
- 2009 H1N1 is more severe than seasonal influenza in terms of hospitalizations among younger people and less severe among older people.
- Influenza-related deaths are only reportable among children younger than 18. The number of pediatric deaths reported to CDC so far this season already exceeds the highest number ever since CDC began tracking pediatric deaths in 2003-04.

For more information about H1N1 (Swine) Flu:

- Allen County Health Department website:
http://www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org/know_what_to_do.htm
- CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and CDC Information Line: 1-800-CDC-INFO
- Extended Call Hours: Ohio H1N1 (swine) Flu Information Line: 1-866-800-1404 8:00 am – 9:00 pm, Monday – Friday; or access the Ohio Department of Health website: www.odh.ohio.gov