



H1N1 Partner and School Briefing

Date: January 20, 2010
To: All Rhode Islanders
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Information on H1N1 and school-based vaccination clinics in Rhode Island

Local Influenza Activity Level: Sporadic¹, H1N1 predominant circulating strain
Rhode Island²: 365 hospitalized cases, 10 deaths
Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)³: Rhode Island: 0.70%, New England Region: 0.70%, Nation: 2.01%

500K by Valentine's Day

Rhode Island has vaccinated 278,586 individuals against H1N1 flu since the start of its immunization campaign in the fall. With 33 days remaining until February 14, 2010, we must vaccinate 221,414 more Rhode Islanders to meet our goal of vaccinating 500K by Valentine's Day. For updates on our progress toward this goal, see: <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/500kbyvalentinesday/index.php>.

Employers and organizations interested in hosting H1N1 flu vaccination clinics

Employers and community-based organizations that wish to host H1N1 flu vaccination clinics should contact either the Rhode Island Department of Health (401-222-8022 or H1N1@health.ri.gov) or one of the mass immunizers in the state. For these mass immunizers' contact information, see page four of this document.

Free, public clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine

Cities and towns throughout Rhode Island have vaccinated 6,175 individuals against H1N1 flu at free, public since last week. Free clinics will continue operating at various locations through mid-February. Vaccine at these clinics is only available to those who are 18 years of age and older. Individuals do not have to present identification and can attend any clinic, regardless of where they live. Over the next seven days, the following clinics will run:

- January 21; Park View Middle School (25 Park View Blvd., **Cranston**); 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- January 23; Tiverton Middle School (10 Quintal Road, **Tiverton**); 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- January 23; Springbrook Elementary School (39 Springbrook Road, **Westerly**); 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- January 23; Charlestown Senior Center (4890 Old Post Road, **Charlestown**); 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- January 23; Lincoln High School (135 Old River Road, **Lincoln**); 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- January 25; North Kingstown High School (155 Fairway Drive, **North Kingstown**); 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- January 26; Reynolds School (235 High Street, **Bristol**); 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- January 26; Matunuck Elementary School (380 Matunuck Beach Road, **South Kingstown**); 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

To view the complete schedule, see: <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/freepublic1n1clinics/index.php>.

¹ Rhode Island reported sporadic activity for the week of January 3 to January 9, 2010. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

² Confirmed and probable hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

³ Influenza-like illness activity reported by 27 sentinel surveillance sites from January 3, 2010 to January 9, 2010.

Best Practices for Point of Dispensing (POD) organizers

- **Publicize your POD as much as possible.** You are encouraged to use the posters, template letters to the editor, and phone scripts that you received from HEALTH. When appropriate, use the material that you received in foreign languages. Additionally, use your community partners when publicizing your POD, such as local police departments, fire departments, and civic and religious leaders.
- **Be prepared for big crowds before your POD's opening time.** In some cases, individuals have begun arriving at PODs one hour before they open. If possible, establish an indoor waiting area for individuals who arrive at your POD early.
- Set aside three hours for POD set-up.
- Set aside at least one hour for your Just In Time Training and consider running the training the night before your POD.
- Establish separate vaccination stations for those receiving injectable vaccine and nasal spray.
- Place tissue boxes at vaccination stations for those receiving nasal spray.
- When publicizing your POD, encourage individuals to sign and date consent forms in advance. Consent forms can be found on HEALTH's website (<http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/freepublich1n1clinics/index.php>).
- Have staplers at registration tables for individuals who bring consent forms that were printed on two sheets of paper.
- Collect consent forms at vaccination stations, not at your POD's exit. This will ensure that individuals do not accidentally leave with their consent forms.
- Use highlighters to clearly distinguish the consent forms of those who receive injectable vaccine from the consent forms of those who receive nasal spray. You can also color code to differentiate stations for nasal spray and injectable vaccine.
- Laminate the algorithms at your triage stations. This will protect them from wear during your POD.

School-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 vaccine

In the first week of HEALTH's second round of school-based H1N1 flu vaccination clinics, 11,378 children received vaccine. Only children who were younger than 10 years of age at the time of their schools' first H1N1 flu vaccination clinics are being vaccinated at these second round clinics. Children who are 10 years of age and older do not require second doses of H1N1 vaccine. **Students who did not submit consent forms in advance should arrive at clinics as early as possible.**

For answers to frequently asked questions about second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine, see:

<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/FAQsAboutSchoolClinicsForSecondDosesOfH1N1Vaccine.pdf>.

School-based H1N1 vaccination clinic best practices

- **Bring additional consent forms to your clinic for your students who did not attend your first clinic.** These forms can be found at <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/schoolh1n1clinics/index.php>. Students who were vaccinated at your first clinic do not need new consent forms.
- **Collect any new consent forms as soon as possible.** This will minimize the number of clinic walk-ins.
- **Communicate to parents plans to stagger vaccinations (e.g. "Children with last names beginning with the letters A through G will be vaccinated between 4 and 5:30 p.m.").**
- Whenever possible, provide an end time that is earlier than 8 p.m. Many schools that have already conducted second-dose clinics have found that they are waiting between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. for students who do not show up.
- If possible, use a telephone messaging system to remind parents of your clinic's date and location.
- Arrange for adequate security in your clinic's registration area, vaccine administration area and outside of your school. Security outside of your school will help address traffic-flow issues.
- Establish a separate area to vaccinate hysterical or disruptive children.
- Separate children who are awaiting vaccination from children who are receiving their shots.

- Provide an activity for children to keep them calm and occupied during their 15-minute observation periods.
- Arrange tables, chairs and wastebaskets in the vaccine administration area before Rhode Island Medical Reserve Corps (RI MRC) members arrive.
- Use stickers or stamps to identify students who are registered for their vaccinations to distinguish them from siblings or other children who do not attend your school.
- Have ample school staff to register students. This will ensure an orderly registration process. In addition, familiar faces are comforts to both parents and students.
- Provide clear signage outside and inside of your school that will direct parents to specific areas.
- Be prepared with enrollment rosters at your registration tables.
- Keep school staffers who answer parents' phone calls updated about clinic plans and policies.
- Be prepared with water for volunteers.
- Set aside one or more staff members without specific assignments. They can troubleshoot.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived partner briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address h1n1@health.ri.gov
- <http://www.flu.gov>

Contact Information for Rhode Island Mass Immunizers

Company	City	Contact Name	Phone	Email	Clinic Requirements
Maxim Health Solutions	Providence	George Nightingale	781-400-7103	genighti@maxhealth.com	-Minimum of 25 vaccine recipients
Mollen Immunization Clinics	Providence	Lynn Johnston	480-214-2000 Ext 204	lynn@mollen-clinic.com	-Minimum of 50 vaccine recipients
Provant Health Solutions	East Greenwich	Lisa Edenbaum	401-234-1701	ledenbaum@provanthealth.com	-Minimum of 50 vaccine recipients
Scituate Health Alliance	N. Scituate	Lisa Girard	401-764-0405	scituatehealth@aol.com	
VNS of Greater RI	Lincoln	Lesley Palagi	401-762-7301	lpalagi@vnsgr.org	-Minimum of 25 vaccine recipients -All recipients must be 10 years of age and older -Only vaccinates in the greater Providence area
Wellness Company	Providence	Diane Butkins	401-461-0662	office@thewellcomp.com	- Minimum of 50 vaccine recipients