



H1N1 Partner and School Briefing

Date: January 27, 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: 366 hospitalized cases, 10 deaths
Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)³: Rhode Island: 0.21%, New England Region: .90%, Nation: 1.82%

500K by Valentine's Day

Rhode Island has vaccinated 312,691 individuals against H1N1 flu since the start of its immunization campaign in the fall. With 19 days remaining until February 14, 2010, we must vaccinate 187,309 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>.

Free, public clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine

Free, public clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine 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 30; Calcutt School (112 Washington Street, **Central Falls**); 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- January 30; Smithfield High School (90 Pleasant View Avenue, **Smithfield**); 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- January 30; Rogers High School (15 Wikham Road, **Newport**); 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

To view the complete schedule, see: <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/freepublich1n1clinics/index.php>.

Best Practices for Point of Dispensing (POD) organizers

- Have wheelchairs on site in case people with limited mobility require them.
- Place an aide at each vaccination station who can hand out Vaccine Information Statements and who can put labels on consent forms.
- Pre-label your Vaccine Administration Record Cards. To get cards in advance, contact David Balbi at HEALTH (David.Balbi@health.ri.gov).

For a complete list of Best Practices for the organizers of PODs, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/Briefings/partner012010.pdf>

¹ Rhode Island reported sporadic activity for the week of January 10 to January 16, 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 21 sentinel surveillance sites from January 10, 2010 to January 16, 2010.

H1N1 Flu Vaccination Clinics for state employees

In February, two H1N1 flu vaccination clinics will be held for Rhode Island state employees and their dependants who are 19 years of age and older. Appointments are not necessary and vaccination will be free for those covered by UnitedHealthcare. Those who will be vaccinated should bring their UnitedHealthcare insurance cards. Details for the clinics are as follows:

- February 3; Rhode Island Department of Health auditorium (lower level); 3 Capitol Hill, Providence 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- February 10; Rhode Island Department of Human Services, West Wing Conference Room, John O. Pastore Complex, 600 New London Ave., Louis Pasteur Bldg. #57, Cranston 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

School-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 vaccine

Through the first nine days of the second round of school-based clinics in Rhode Island, 19,129 children have been vaccinated against H1N1 flu. 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. For answers to frequently asked questions about second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine, see:

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

Some schools have adjusted the closing times of their clinics for second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine. While some clinics may close earlier than 7 p.m., no children will be vaccinated after 7 p.m. Parents and guardians can contact their childrens' schools for additional clinic updates.

For a list of Best Practices for the organizers of school-based vaccination clinics, see:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/Briefings/partner012010.pdf>.

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>