



H1N1 Key Messages:

Clinic staff might be asked a variety of questions when working at the H1N1 vaccination clinics for school-aged children. This is a list of likely questions and appropriate responses. If not sure of the correct answer please consult with the Clinic Lead in order to avoid providing erroneous information to members of the public. Also, feel free to advise individuals to contact the *Imperial County Flu Prevention Hotline* for additional questions: **(760) 482-4968**.

- **My child is younger than 9 years of age and will need an H1N1 Booster shot, where will I go to receive that?**
As additional vaccine becomes available, public clinics will be scheduled and parents can get their child's booster shot at a public clinic. In addition, local pediatricians will have H1N1 vaccine available. There will not be special school clinics scheduled to provide boosters.
- **I came to the school vaccination clinic but H1N1 vaccines ran out before my child got one, what do I do now? Can I go to another scheduled school clinic and get it there?**
If the clinic runs out of vaccine, the public is advised to call their pediatrician and make arrangements for the child to receive the H1N1 vaccine at the pediatrician's office. Vaccine will also be available at community clinics and at future public clinics.
- **I was unable to take my son/daughter to the clinic at the school because I was ill, at work, etc. Can I take him/her to the Public Health Department and have him/her receive it there?** If you were unable to take your child to the school-based clinic you will need to contact your healthcare provider to make arrangements for your child to receive the vaccine in the doctor's office. Also, parents do not need to wait for the school-based clinic to receive the H1N1 vaccine. The H1N1 nasal spray is currently available with local pediatricians in Imperial County. The nasal spray is for healthy 2-18 year olds.
- **When will my high schooler be getting the vaccine?** Imperial County is starting H1N1 vaccinations with the youngest children first and as more vaccine becomes available clinics for high schools and community colleges will be scheduled. The initial allotment of H1N1 vaccine is being equally distributed according to the number of children in each age category. Once all vaccine has been received and the highest priority groups served, vaccine will be offered to all those who wish to receive it. The H1N1 nasal spray is currently available with local pediatricians in Imperial County. The nasal spray is for healthy 2-18 year olds.

H1N1 Key Messages (continued)

- **What if my son/daughter gets the H1N1 vaccine and still gets the flu? Should I take them to the doctor or the hospital?**

The protection offered from the vaccine is extremely high, however, some precautions to prevent the spread of the flu still need to be taken. If your son/daughter gets sick with the flu have them stay home to avoid spreading illness to others. Children should be kept home until at least 24 hours after the child no longer has a fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine. If your child's flu symptoms become severe, contact his/her doctor. Your health-care provider will determine whether testing or treatment is necessary.

- **I'm pregnant and I have a child in 3rd grade, can I also get the H1N1 vaccine at the school-based clinic since I am part of the priority group?**

Pregnant women are encouraged to get their H1N1 vaccine from their OB provider at the doctor's office or at the Public Health Dept. Those going to the Public Health Department will need a referral from their obstetrician. Only children enrolled at the local schools will be receiving the H1N1 vaccine at the school-based clinics.

- **I am a teacher/staff person at the school, can I get my H1N1 vaccine since I have a chronic illness?**
- The school-based clinics will only be offering the H1N1 vaccine to the children. Individuals with risk factors will need to see their medical provider to receive the H1N1 vaccine.

- **What if I want to purchase vaccine for the rest of my family? Where can I purchase H1N1 vaccine?**
- The vaccine is a prescription medication and is not for sale and the public will not be able to purchase it from providers or pharmacies to take home. There is no charge for receiving the H1N1 vaccine. Some providers may charge an administration fee but the vaccine itself will not be charged.

- **Do you have to be a U.S. Citizen or legal resident to receive the H1N1 vaccine? What type of documentation will parents need in order to get the vaccine for their child?**

Only students officially registered at local public and private schools will be eligible to receive the H1N1 vaccine at the school-based clinics. Schools will have their student rosters to make sure children attending the clinics are registered.

- **I am unhappy about the way the clinic was organized, who do I complain to?**
- Those individuals who want to provide feedback on the school-based clinics may do so by contacting the Imperial County Flu Prevention Hotline at (760) 482-4968.