



Polk County Health Department



Public Health
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Burnett and Polk Counties Gear Up for H1N1 Vaccine Clinics

The Burnett and Polk County Health Departments continue to plan for the arrival of H1N1 vaccine. Following Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) the Burnett and Polk County Health Departments continue to work closely with local medical centers to develop H1N1 vaccination plans.

The first wave of H1N1 vaccine, which is expected to arrive over the next few weeks, will be limited and will be targeted for healthcare workers, EMS, and first responders. The purpose of targeting these groups is to assure that we protect those who will come in frequent contact and treat those with H1N1 influenza. Pregnant women will also be targeted for vaccination in the initial wave as studies are showing that they are at greater risk to develop complications from influenza when not treated early.

The second wave of H1N1 vaccine, as it becomes available, will be targeted for all people 6 months-24 years, persons 25-64 with preexisting health conditions associated with complications to influenza, and care givers of those fewer than 6 months of age. The County Health Departments are currently working with local school districts to plan for school-based vaccination clinics. As part of this process, school officials will be notifying parents with dates and important information, such as consent forms, for H1N1 school-based vaccination clinics. Burnett County will have school based clinics open to the public, similar to their seasonal influenza clinics. Due to the number of school districts in Polk County, the local medical centers and other vaccinators will be targeting the other groups listed in the second wave. During the final wave of shipments of H1N1 vaccine, anyone else wanting the vaccination should be able to get one.

The exact timeframe between phase 1, 2, and 3 is not known at this time because it is based on the amount of vaccine that makes it way to Burnett and Polk County over the next several months. The Health Departments and the local medical centers want the public to know that we continue to plan and work together to make the H1N1 vaccination campaign as efficient as possible. Updates on the school based clinics can be found at: www.polkcountyflu.com.

As the H1N1 vaccine trickles into Burnett and Polk Counties, we want to remind the public that enough vaccine has been ordered at the federal level so that everyone who wants the vaccine will eventually be able to get it. During this time, we ask the public to protect themselves and others by following simple public health measures such as covering your cough and sneezes, stay home if you are sick, and wash your hands frequently.