



Polk County Health Department



Public Health
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2009 H1N1 Vaccine Arrives More Slowly than Expected in Wisconsin

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently announced that the production of H1N1 vaccine is slower than it anticipated. The vaccine development process is complex and forecasting how much vaccine will be available at a certain time is challenging. Production is still in the early stages. Vaccine amounts will vary from week to week, but millions of doses of vaccine are in the pipeline. Federal, state and local public health authorities are working hard to get vaccine out to the public as soon as it is received.

The CDC decision to distribute limited quantities of the vaccine as soon as it was available rather than waiting to ship large quantities has created challenges and frustrations for public health partners, health care providers, and the general public. However, it has allowed health care professionals to start protecting high risk people against the H1N1 virus as soon as possible.

The CDC and FDA continue to approve lots and are not cutting corners in terms of quality control checks. The vaccine is being manufactured in the same fashion as the seasonal influenza, deeming it safe and effective. The CDC remains optimistic it will achieve the goal of making the H1N1 vaccine available to all of those who need and want it.

Wisconsin, has only received small amounts of vaccine to date. Vaccine allocated to Wisconsin has been distributed throughout the state based on population. Given this current situation, H1N1 vaccine has been prioritized for high risk groups including health care workers, pregnant women, preschool children and caregivers of infants less than 6 months of age.

The Polk County Health Department plans to hold its first vaccination clinic on Wednesday, November 4th from 2-6pm for preschool children (6 Months-5 years of age) AND parents and caregivers of children under 6 months. School based clinics are also planned for the month of November depending on vaccine availability. Polk County medical centers have finished vaccinating their health care workers and are distributing their limited supply of vaccine to patients in the priority groups listed above. It is anticipated that as vaccine production continues throughout November and December, there will be adequate vaccine for any person wanting it.

Please visit the Polk County Flu website: www.polkcountyflu.com for vaccination clinic schedules as well as the latest information on H1N1 and seasonal influenza.