



Polk County Health Department



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Polk County Begins H1N1 Vaccine Clinics for High-Risk Individuals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently announced that the production of H1N1 vaccine is slower than it anticipated. The CDC had decided to distribute limited quantities of the vaccine as soon as it is available rather than waiting to ship large quantities. This 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.

Wisconsin, has only limited 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, caregivers and household members of infants less than 6 months of age, and school age children who have an underlying health condition that places them at increased risk of developing complications from influenza. These conditions include but are not limited to asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, blood disorders, suppressed immune systems, long-term aspirin use, liver and kidney disorders, and certain neurologic and muscular disorders.

The Polk County Health Department will be holding H1N1 vaccination clinics for individuals who fall into the priority groups. The next available clinic is Thursday, Nov. 19. **An appointment is required for all clinics and can be obtained by calling the Health Department at 715-485-8500.** Future priority group clinics will be based on demand and vaccine availability. School-based clinics that had been planned for November have been postponed until adequate vaccine is available.

With the H1N1 virus circulating throughout the county, it is important to take steps to protect yourself from and prevent the spread of influenza. These include covering your cough, washing your hands frequently especially after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, and staying home from work or school if you are ill. It is important that all pregnant women, children under age 2 and those with an underlying health conditions contact their physician if they develop symptoms of influenza. These individuals are at highest risk of complications from influenza and may benefit from antiviral treatment.

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.