



# Polk County Health Department



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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## Polk County Expands Eligibility for H1N1 Vaccine

The Wisconsin Division of Public Health has announced an expansion of the targeted subgroups to receive H1N1 vaccinations. Beginning November 19, all persons age 19 through 64 who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications can receive the H1N1 vaccine. This group is an addition to the subgroups currently eligible for vaccine that include 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 a medical condition that places them at increased risk for influenza-related complications.

The qualifying medical conditions include but are not limited to asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders (not hypertension), hematologic disorders, immunosuppression, children on 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. These H1N1 clinics are scheduled for Thursday, November 19; Friday, November 20; Wednesday, November 25; and Friday, November 27. **An appointment is required for all clinics and can be obtained by calling the Health Department at 715-485-8500.** All clinics are based on vaccine availability.

Vaccination is recommended even if you or your child may have had an influenza-like illness. There are other viral illnesses that may have presented with influenza-like symptoms. Only those who had a laboratory confirmed H1N1 influenza can assume they are immune to H1N1 influenza.

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](http://www.polkcountyflu.com) for vaccination clinic schedules as well as the latest information on H1N1 and seasonal influenza. Vaccine information sheets (VIS) and consent forms are available to download and read and complete prior to your appointment.