

New!

2009 H1N1 (Swine) Influenza Vaccination Frequently Asked Questions

Distributed by the Lebanon County School Districts

Thank you for completing the H1N1 vaccination survey that was sent home at the end of October. The information you provided us is a crucial component in our efforts to plan for the vaccination of our county students. Our schools are continuing to work together with local health officials to keep our students and their families healthy. We are providing you this guide regarding frequently asked questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine. As we receive more information, you will receive updates through your child's school. Again, thank you for your help!

Q. When and where will the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine be available? New Information!

A. 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccines will be available for all Lebanon County students, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, December 17th, 18th & 19th. The free clinics will be held at the Lebanon County Career & Technology Center and at Palmyra High School. Vaccination clinics will be open Thursday and Friday from 4pm to 9pm and Saturday from 8am to 2pm. Families may choose to visit either vaccination site.

Q. Which types of 2009 H1N1 vaccines will be available? New Information!

A. Both the nasal spray and the injection will be available at the free vaccination clinics. The healthcare provider on site will determine which vaccine is right for your child.

Q. What will I need to bring with me the day of my child's vaccination? New Information!

A. Parents should complete a vaccination consent form for each child who will receive a vaccine, and bring it with them to the clinic. In addition to the consent form, parents should review the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Vaccine Information Statement, (VIS). Both the consent form and the VIS is available online on each of the school districts' websites. Finally, parents should dress their child in loose-fitting or easily manipulated clothing. Many of the vaccines available are injections, and must be given in the upper arm, or sometimes, the upper leg.

Q. My child was already sick. Should he receive a 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine?

A. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), encourages everyone to be vaccinated for H1N1 influenza when vaccines are available, *even if you have already had the flu*. Even if your child had flu-like symptoms this fall, or had H1N1 influenza in the spring, it is still recommended that he receive a vaccination. It is possible to become ill from influenza multiple times. Vaccination is the first line of defense in keeping your child, and others free from illness.

Q. My child received a seasonal flu shot. Should he also receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine?

A. Yes, your child should receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. However, you should tell the healthcare professional administering the vaccine two important pieces of information. **1.** *The date your child received the seasonal flu shot*, and **2.** *if your child was vaccinated with an active or inactive vaccine*. This information will help the healthcare professionals decide which vaccine is right for your child. If you are not sure which vaccine was given to your child, you should contact your doctor or clinic where he received the vaccination.

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Q. How many doses of the 2009 H1N1 Vaccine will my child need?

A. Children through 9 years of age should receive two doses of the vaccine, about a month apart. Older children and adults need only one dose.

Q. Which vaccine is right for my child?

A. There are two vaccines that are available to protect against 2009 H1N1 influenza. These vaccines are made just like seasonal flu vaccines, and are expected to be as safe and effective as seasonal flu vaccines. The H1N1 vaccine does not protect against the seasonal flu, or other flu-like viruses. The H1N1 influenza vaccines come in two forms : a nasal spray, and an injection. Some people may not be able to receive a certain type of vaccine. Remember, ultimately your healthcare provider will decide what is right for your child.

Q. Is there any reason my child should not be vaccinated?

A. People who have a severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs, or to any other substance in the vaccine should not get 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine. Tell the person administering the vaccine if your child has any severe allergies. If your child is moderately or severely ill, you might be advised to wait until he recovers before getting the vaccine. If your child has a mild cold or other illness, there is usually no need to wait.

Q. What if there is a severe reaction?

A. What should I look for? Any unusual condition, such as a high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness. What should I do? • Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away. • Tell the doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given. • Ask your provider to report the reaction by filing a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form. Or you can file this report through the VAERS website at <http://www.vaers.hhs.gov>, or by calling 1-800-822-7967. *VAERS does not provide medical advice.*

Q. How can I learn more?

A.

- Ask your health care provider. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): -Call 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or -Visit CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu> or <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>
- Visit the web at <http://www.flu.gov>