



# H1N1 Partner and School Briefing

Date: January 13, 2010  
To: All Rhode Islanders  
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Re: Information on H1N1 and school-based vaccination clinics in Rhode Island

**Local Influenza Activity Level:** Local<sup>1</sup>, H1N1 predominant circulating strain  
**Rhode Island**<sup>2</sup>: 365 hospitalized cases, 9 deaths  
**Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)**<sup>3</sup>: Rhode Island: 0.92%, New England Region: 1.2%, Nation: 2.72%

## 500K by Valentine's Day

Rhode Island has vaccinated 236,647 individuals against H1N1 flu since the start of its immunization campaign in the fall. With 33 days remaining until February 14, 2010, we must vaccinate 263,353 more Rhode Islanders to meet our goal of vaccinating 500K by Valentine's Day. For updates on our progress toward this goal, see: <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/500kbyvalentinesday/index.php>.

## Employers and organizations interested in hosting H1N1 flu vaccination clinics

Employers and community-based organizations that wish to host H1N1 flu vaccination clinics should contact either HEALTH (401-222-8022 or [H1N1@health.ri.gov](mailto:H1N1@health.ri.gov)) or one of the mass immunizers in the state. For these mass immunizers' contact information, see the document accompanying this briefing.

## Senior citizens encouraged to receive H1N1 flu vaccine

All senior citizens and individuals in assisted living facilities are encouraged to receive H1N1 flu vaccine. Flu viruses spread easily in congregate living situations. While Rhode Island nursing homes are arranging H1N1 flu vaccinations for their residents, H1N1 flu vaccine is available for all adults at many pharmacies throughout the state and will be available at free, public clinics as of January 16, 2010.

## Free, public clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine

Beginning on January 16, 2010, 28 public clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine will run at various locations throughout Rhode Island over a four-week period. Vaccine will be free but will only be available to those who are 18 years of age and older. Individuals will not have to present identification at the clinics and can attend any clinic, regardless of where they live. Over the next seven days, the following clinics will run:

- January 16; Mt. Pleasant High School (434 Mount Pleasant Avenue, **Providence**); 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- January 16; Cumberland High School (2600 Mendon Road, **Cumberland**); 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- January 16; Joseph Jenks Middle School (350 Division Street, **Pawtucket**); 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- January 16; Burrillville High School (425 East Avenue, **Burrillville**); 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- January 17; West Warwick High School (2 Webster Knight Drive, **West Warwick**); 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- January 17; North Smithfield Jr./Sr. High School (412 Greenville Road, **North Smithfield**); 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island reported sporadic activity for the week of January 3 to January 9, 2010. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

<sup>2</sup> Confirmed and probable hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Influenza-like illness activity reported by 18 sentinel surveillance sites from December 27 to January 2, 2010

To view the complete schedule, see: <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/freepublich1n1clinics/index.php>.

### **Flu Self-Care Pamphlet**

HEALTH has developed an educational pamphlet to teach people how to care for someone with the flu at home. Basic information covered in the pamphlet includes recognizing flu symptoms and emergency warning signs, checking and treating fever, keeping people hydrated, and limiting the spread of flu. The pamphlet is available on HEALTH's website at <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/treatment/> and is a shorter version of HEALTH's full pandemic flu self-care guide, which is available on the same page.

### **Flu Vaccine Locator**

Individuals who are 18 years of age and older can now find H1N1 flu vaccine at pharmacies and other public venues using HEALTH's **Flu Vaccine Locator**. The Flu Vaccine Locator can be found on HEALTH's website ([www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)). Individuals who enter their zip codes into the Flu Vaccine Locator will receive a list of nearby pharmacies with H1N1 flu vaccine and nearby public clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine. The first of HEALTH's free, public clinics will begin on January 16, 2010.

### **School-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 vaccine**

School-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine began this week. Only children who were younger than 10 years of age at the time of their schools' first H1N1 flu vaccination clinics are being vaccinated at these second round clinics. Children who are 10 years of age and older do not require second doses of H1N1 vaccine. To view the schedule for school-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine, see: <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/schoolh1n1clinics/index.php>.

For answers to frequently asked questions about second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine, see:

<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/FAQsAboutSchoolClinicsForSecondDosesOfH1N1Vaccine.pdf>.

### **School-based H1N1 vaccination clinic best practices**

Sound planning and good clinic management helped all of HEALTH's evening, school-based H1N1 flu vaccination clinics run smoothly this fall. School leaders who are preparing clinics for second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine should keep these reminders and best practices in mind.

- **Bring additional consent forms to your clinic for your students who did not attend your first clinic.** These forms can be found at <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/schoolh1n1clinics/index.php>. Students who were vaccinated at your first clinic do not need new consent forms.
- **Collect any new consent forms as soon as possible.** This will minimize the number of clinic walk-ins.
- **Encourage your students who meet the age requirement for second clinics and who were not vaccinated at your first clinic to arrive at your second clinic as early as possible.** Clinic staffers may have to process these students' consent forms.
- **Communicate to parents plans to stagger vaccinations (e.g. "Children with last names beginning with the letters A through G will be vaccinated between 4 and 5:30 p.m.").**
- If possible, use a telephone messaging system to remind parents of your clinic's date and location.
- Arrange for adequate security in your clinic's registration area, vaccine administration area and outside of your school. Security outside of your school will help address traffic-flow issues.
- Establish a separate area to vaccinate hysterical or disruptive children.
- Shield children who are awaiting vaccination from children who are receiving their shots.
- Provide an activity for children to keep them calm and occupied during their 15-minute observation periods.
- Arrange tables, chairs and wastebaskets in the vaccine administration area before Rhode Island Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) members arrive.
- Use stickers or stamps to identify students who are registered for their vaccinations to distinguish them from siblings or other children who do not attend your school.

- Have ample school staff to register students. This will ensure an orderly registration process. In addition, familiar faces are comforts to both parents and students.
- Provide clear signage outside and inside of your school that will direct parents to specific areas.
- Be prepared with enrollment rosters at your registration tables.
- Keep school staffers who answer parents' phone calls updated about clinic plans and policies.
- Be prepared with water for volunteers.
- Set aside one or more staff members without specific assignments. They can troubleshoot.

### **Resources**

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived partner briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address [h1n1@health.ri.gov](mailto:h1n1@health.ri.gov)
- <http://www.flu.gov>

**Contact Information for Rhode Island Mass Immunizers**

Company	City	Contact Name	Phone	Email	Clinic Requirements
Maxim Health Solutions	Providence	George Nightingale	781-400-7103	<a href="mailto:genighti@maxhealth.com">genighti@maxhealth.com</a>	-Minimum of 25 vaccine recipients
Mollen Immunization Clinics	Providence	Lynn Johnston	480-214-2000 Ext 204	<a href="mailto:lynn@mollen-clinic.com">lynn@mollen-clinic.com</a>	-Minimum of 50 vaccine recipients
Provant Health Solutions	East Greenwich	Lisa Edenbaum	401-234-1701	<a href="mailto:ledenbaum@provanthealth.com">ledenbaum@provanthealth.com</a>	-Minimum of 50 vaccine recipients
Scituate Health Alliance	N. Scituate	Lisa Girard	401-764-0405	<a href="mailto:scituatehealth@aol.com">scituatehealth@aol.com</a>	
VNS of Greater RI	Lincoln	Lesley Palagi	401-762-7301	<a href="mailto:lpalagi@vnsgri.org">lpalagi@vnsgri.org</a>	-Minimum of 25 vaccine recipients -All recipients must be 10 years of age and older -Only vaccinates in the greater Providence area
Wellness Company	Providence	Diane Butkins	401-461-0662	<a href="mailto:office@thewellcomp.com">office@thewellcomp.com</a>	- Minimum of 50 vaccine recipients