



H1N1 Partner and School Briefing

Date: February 3, 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: Local¹, H1N1 predominant circulating strain
Rhode Island²: 366 hospitalized cases, 10 deaths
Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)³: Rhode Island: 0.71%, New England Region: .80%, Nation: 1.82%

500K by Valentine's Day

Rhode Island has vaccinated 356,342 individuals against H1N1 flu since the start of its immunization campaign in the fall. With 11 days remaining until February 14, 2010, we must vaccinate 143,658 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>.

School-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 vaccine

Through the first thirteen days of the second round of school-based clinics in Rhode Island, 26,649 children have been vaccinated against H1N1 flu. For answers to frequently asked questions about second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine, see: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/FAQsAboutSchoolClinicsForSecondDosesOfH1N1Vaccine.pdf>.

Some schools have adjusted the closing times of their clinics for second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine. While some clinics may close earlier than 7 p.m., no clinic will run later than 7 p.m. Parents and guardians can contact their childrens' schools for additional clinic updates.

For a list of Best Practices for the organizers of school-based vaccination clinics, see: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/Briefings/partner012010.pdf>.

Free, public clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine

Free, public clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine will continue operating at various locations through mid-February. Vaccine at these clinics is only available to those who are 18 years of age and older. Individuals do not have to present identification and can attend any clinic, regardless of where they live. In the next seven days, the following clinics will run:

- February 4; Woonsocket High School (777 Cass Ave., **Woonsocket**); 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- February 6; The Melrose School (76 Melrose Ave., **Jamestown**); 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- February 6; Chariho High School (455 Switch Road, **Richmond**); 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- February 6; The Job Corps Center (162 Main St., **Exeter**) 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- February 6; Kickemuit Middle School (525 Child St., **Warren**) 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

¹ Rhode Island reported local activity for the week of January 24 to January 30, 2010. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

² Confirmed and probable hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

³ Influenza-like illness activity reported by 23 sentinel surveillance sites from January 17, 2010 to January 23, 2010.

- February 7; Johnston Senior Center (1291 Hartford Ave., **Johnston**) 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- February 7; Gaudet Middle School (1113 Aquidneck Ave., **Middletown**) 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- February 9; Barrington High School (220 Lincoln Ave., **Barrington**) 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- February 9; Portsmouth High School (120 Education Lane, **Portsmouth**) 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- February 10; Narragansett High School (245 South Pier Road, **Narragansett**) 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

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

Best Practices for Point of Dispensing (POD) organizers

- If possible, publicize your POD on your local police or fire department's electronic message boards on the sides of roads in high-traffic areas.
- Review VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) forms with your POD's Medical Director and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) before your POD begins. In the event of an adverse response to the H1N1 flu vaccine, a VAERS form must be filled out **completely**.

For additional Best Practices for the organizers of PODs, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/Briefings/partner012010.pdf> and <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/Briefings/partner012710.pdf>.

With questions about After Action Reports, POD organizers should contact Dave Balbi (David.Balbi@health.ri.gov) at the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH).

Voluntary vaccine recalls

There have been two non-safety-related voluntary recalls of H1N1 flu vaccine announced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this week. These recalls are not related to concerns over the safety or efficacy of the vaccine, and patients who received vaccine from the affected lots do not have to be re-vaccinated. HEALTH is contacting all practices in Rhode Island that received recalled H1N1 flu vaccine.

Non-H1N1 HEALTH Update: Guidance for relief workers and others traveling to Haiti

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance for those traveling to Haiti to assist with the humanitarian response following the January 12 earthquake. This guidance includes information on recommended vaccines, infectious diseases, protective health measures, and stress management. To learn more, see <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/news-announcements/relief-workers-haiti.aspx>.

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
- <http://www.flu.gov>