

# Montgomery County Health Department

## H1N1 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

**Q** A form was sent home from school asking if I want my child to have the vaccine, but I'm not 100% sure that I want them to have it. Do I still fill out the form and turn it in?

**A** Yes, you should still fill it out and turn it in to the school even if you don't want the vaccination. The form is a tool used by the Health Department to gauge interest in the vaccine so that we can determine how much vaccine we need to request from the State. Even if yes is marked on that form you still have every right to change your mind and not have your child vaccinated. Likewise if you say no on the form you will still have the option to have your child vaccinated.

**Q** When will the vaccinations begin?

**A** We are expecting to have the first shipment of vaccine in the middle of October. Once the vaccine is received, notifications of specific vaccination dates will be done through the schools.

**UPDATE - 10/20/09:** The vaccine has been received as of 10/19/09. The Health Department is currently making plans for clinics that include first responders, all four school districts, pregnant women, infants, and others listed by the CDC as the initial priority group.

**Q** Where will the vaccinations be given?

**A** School-aged children will be given theirs at their school. Children not in school, and those who miss the school clinic, will be given the vaccination at the Health Department during scheduled clinic times, which will be announced through local newspapers, radio, and the Health Department's website as they are made available.

**Q** Is the Health Department maintaining a waiting list for people who wish to receive the vaccine?

**A** The Health Department does/will not have a waiting list for the vaccination.

**Q** Is there a cost for the vaccination?

**A** There is no charge for the H1N1 vaccination received through the Health Department.

**Q** Will the vaccine be nasal or injectable?

**A** The Health Department will be requesting the injectable vaccine. However, there is no guarantee that will be what we receive.

**UPDATE – 10/20/09:** MCHD has received only injectable vaccine.

**Q** Is the vaccine a live virus?

**A** The intranasal vaccine is a live virus. The injectable vaccine is an inactivated virus.

**Q** Do you recommend that I get the vaccination?

**A** That is a question you have to answer for yourself or with the advice of your physician. The Health Department cannot/will not make that decision for you.

**Q** I'm pregnant. Should I get the vaccination?

**A** The Health Department recommends that you consult your physician prior to vaccination if you are pregnant.

**Q** What groups are recommended to receive the H1N1 vaccine first?

**A** Present recommendations are:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency personnel
- Anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Anyone from 25 through 64 with certain chronic medical conditions or a weakened immune system

The priority list comes from the CDC and is subject to change.

**Q** Should I get the pneumonia shot also?

**A** The Health Department recommends that you consult your physician about the pneumonia shot.

**Q** Is the H1N1 vaccine a series of two shots?

**A** Current information states that for children 6 months to 9 years it is a series of two shots, given approximately three to four weeks apart. For those 10 years of age and older it is one shot.

**For more information about the H1N1 vaccine, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).**