

Chisago County Public Health – H1N1 Vaccination Clinics-school sites

Chisago County Health Department has received its first shipment of H1N1 nasal spray vaccine and will hold its first school vaccination clinics for Chisago Lakes students on November 16th (Taylors Falls) and November 18th (Chisago Lakes Primary School) for pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grades. Dates will be scheduled for the rest of our schools as Chisago County receives subsequent shipments of vaccine. Complete information will be sent home with your student via their communication folder or by mail once the date is known for their grade/building. If you have any questions about the vaccine or the clinics, please call Pam Bates, PHN, at this number: 651-213-5225 from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM. Please visit the MDH influenza web site at: www.mdhflu.com for additional information. Additionally, your child's health care provider can answer your questions about the H1N1 virus, and the need for your child to also be vaccinated against the seasonal influenza virus.

Should my child get vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 if they had a flu-like illness since the Spring of 2009? The symptoms of influenza (flu-like illnesses) are similar to those caused by many other viruses. Even when influenza viruses are causing large numbers of people to get sick, other viruses are also causing illnesses. Specific testing, called "RT-PCR test," is needed in order to tell if an illness is caused by a specific influenza strain or by some other virus. This test is different from rapid flu tests that doctors can do in their offices. Since most people with flu-like illnesses will not be tested with RT-PCR this season, the majority will not know whether they have been infected with 2009 H1N1 flu or a different virus. Therefore, if your child was ill but you do not know if he/she had 2009 H1N1 infection, he/she should get vaccinated, if your doctor recommends it.