



COUNTY OF MARATHON

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Weekly H1N1 Update from Marathon County Health Department

Letters to parents from schools

This week schools in Marathon County will be sending home letters to parents to inform them of the availability of H1N1 flu shot clinics offered at school. The Marathon County Health Department has been working with school administrators to plan vaccination clinics at schools throughout the county. All children will be offered the opportunity for vaccination. Children must have signed parent consent in order to receive the vaccination. The consent form asks parents important health information which will help the Registered Nurses determine if vaccine is appropriate for each child. The schools will be requesting parents accompany their child to the vaccination clinic. For this reason we are offering after school clinic hours to accommodate families. The vaccination clinics will extend into the late afternoon and evening hours.

H1N1 Vaccine Clinic Schedule

Marathon County Health Department staff has been working on coordinating a schedule of H1N1 vaccination clinics. The schedule involves the coordination of school calendars, nursing staff from numerous agencies, the availability of facilities, and most importantly the availability of vaccine. The final schedule will be finalized next week after we are assured of adequate vaccine supply. The schedule will be posted throughout the County and posted on several Web sites including www.co.marathon.wi.us/H1N1.asp, United Way's 211, and local school Web sites.

The H1N1 Vaccine

The vaccine is available in three forms; nasal spray, single dose syringes, or multi dose vials. The form each person receives will be dependant on their age and health conditions. A few health history questions will help the Registered Nurse or your health care provider determine which is best for you. All three forms may not be available at all times because of supply and demand issues.

Statewide Situational Update:

- **Cases** – Influenza like illness is widespread in Wisconsin. The southwest and northeast regions are reporting the highest activity. Nationally, 97 percent of those who test positive for influenza have the H1N1 and not the other seasonal varieties of influenza.
- **Deaths** – There have been nine H1N1-related deaths statewide since this spring.
- **School closings** – Three districts have had school closings in Wisconsin. They are Wisconsin Dells, Spring Green, and Medford. School closure decisions are made by the school district with consultation of the local Health Department and are based on the impact that high absenteeism is having on effective delivery of education in the classroom.

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