



COUNTY OF MARATHON

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Weekly H1N1 Update from Marathon County Health Department

H1N1 Vaccine

The supply of vaccine is not coming as quickly as was anticipated. To date, 292,000 doses have been distributed throughout the state. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, State Department of Health and Local Public Health agencies have targeted populations into three phases for vaccination. Phase one focused on hospitals, clinics and health departments to vaccinate health care workers and medical first responders as well as patients in the target groups as vaccine is available. This protects the most vulnerable patients and those that treat them. We are currently in phase one.

Due to the supply, we continue to target specific groups of people in phase one category. This will allow us to provide the limited amount of vaccine we have to those who need it most.

These target groups include:

- **Pregnant women**
- **Persons who live with or provide care for children aged less than 6 months** (e.g. parents, siblings and daycare providers)
- **Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel** who have direct contact with patients or infectious material
- **Children aged 6 months through 4 years, and**
- **Children and adolescents aged 5-18 years who have chronic medical conditions** that place them at higher risk of influenza-related complications. These conditions include asthma, cardiovascular, renal, hepatic, cognitive, neurologic/neuromuscular, hematological or metabolic disorders, or disease that compromises the immune system.

Intranasal H1N1 vaccine is equally safe and effective and currently more widely available. It is for healthy people who are not pregnant and between 2 and 49 years of age.

Mass school and community vaccination clinics will be delayed. If a vaccination clinic is occurring in your area, please be aware that the supply of vaccine is limited and will be available to only those people in the targeted groups. We will proceed with mass school and community vaccination clinics when vaccine becomes more readily available.

Other ways to protect your self

In addition to vaccine, the public can do the following:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Keep your kids home if they are sick
- Cover your cough/sneeze
- Call your medical provider if you are ill and think you need to be seen



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Should I get vaccinated if I think I had the flu?

Vaccination is recommended for those who have not had the disease confirmed but only "think" they had it. The reason for this is, unless the person was specifically tested for H1N1 they may have had another virus and still need protection from H1N1 disease. There are many viruses that are currently causing illness that are not H1N1 influenza. Only 23% of the people with "influenza like illness" actually have confirmed influenza. It is not harmful to receive the vaccine if you had the disease.

H1N1 Vaccine Clinic Schedule

Marathon County Health Department staff has been working on a schedule of H1N1 vaccination clinics. The schedule is dependant on the availability of vaccine. The final schedule will be widely publicized after we are assured of adequate vaccine supply. The schedule will be posted throughout the County and posted on several websites including www.co.marathon.wi.us/H1N1.asp, United Way's 211, and local school websites.

School Closures

To date 29 schools have closed across the State. For a listing of school closures go to: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pandemicflu.html>

Letters to parents from schools

The Health Department continues to plan for school basd clinics and will implement those plans once vaccine is more widely available. Children must have signed parent consent in order to receive the vaccination. The consent forms that have been submitted are being held at the schools. When the clinic dates are finalized they will be distributed throughout the County and posted on several websites including www.co.marathon.wi.us/H1N1.asp, United Way's 211, and local school websites.

Statewide Situational Update:

- Cases: Influenza like illness is widespread throughout WI.
- Deaths: There have been 14 H1N1-related deaths statewide since this spring.

END