

January 4, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Madison County Health Department has scheduled H1N1 flu clinics throughout January by appointment for students who missed the school H1N1 flu clinics in December and for those children 10 years and younger who need their second dose of H1N1 vaccine. **If your child received an H1N1 vaccination at a school clinic, they were given a ½ sheet with the date and vaccine lot number documented.**

In addition, **H1N1 flu clinics are now open to all individuals 6 months and older** who would like to get vaccinated. Right now is a window of opportunity for more people to get vaccinated for H1N1 flu, to provide protection against a possible third wave of disease as more people get immunity to the this flu virus.

Madison County Health Department has scheduled H1N1 clinics by appointment for those who have not yet had the opportunity to get vaccinated. The next H1N1 clinics scheduled are:

- Saturday, January 9 from 9am-3pm in Wampsville
- Tuesday, January 12 from 10am-3pm in Morrisville
- Monday, January 18 (Holiday-Martin Luther King Jr. Day) from 9am-3pm in Wampsville
- Friday, January 22 from 9am-4pm in Wampsville

Go to www.healthymadisoncounty.org to make an appointment online or call 366-2848.

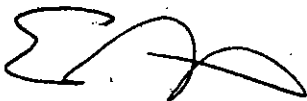
This year the flu has hit us hard and unfortunately there is no way to accurately predict the course of flu epidemics. Currently, the following priority groups have been experiencing higher than usual rates of complications from the H1N1 flu: healthy young people from birth through age 24, pregnant women, adults 25 to 64 who have underlying medical conditions.

If an individual already had the flu this season, they should still get the H1N1 vaccine because rapid-flu tests performed in doctor's offices do not show the type of flu causing illness, e.g. seasonal or H1N1. Only a small number of flu tests in seriously ill or hospitalized patients were sent on by doctor's to a New York State Laboratory to confirm the type of flu (e.g. seasonal or H1N1) causing illness.

As with seasonal flu vaccination, some people getting H1N1 vaccine will have mild side effects such as local injection site pain, redness or swelling in the arm where the shot was given or a runny nose and headache after the nasal spray vaccine.

Please make an appointment today for the H1N1 vaccination, it's not too late.

Sincerely,



Eric Faisst, MPH, REHS
Public Health Director
Madison County Health Department



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