

Most Asked Questions about H1N1 Flu

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When can I get the H1N1 flu vaccine?

Soon, hopefully by the end of October. If you are member of a priority group there will soon be large-scale public flu clinics known as Points of Dispensing (PODs) opening in each of the four counties served by the Central District Health Department.

If you're not in a priority group you will need to be patient. We strongly encourage all residents that don't fall into a priority group to let those more at risk get their vaccine first. Once there is an adequate supply and good coverage of the priority groups the vaccine will be more broadly available to everyone in the community that wants it.

Who is included in the priority groups?

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- Persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old
- People ages of 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

Where can I get the H1N1 flu shot?

Central District Health Department PODs **for Priority Groups** will operate in the following locations:

- **Ada County:**
 - The former K-Mart store - 1001 Park Center Blvd., Boise
 - The former Comp USA store - 1195 N Milwaukee St., Boise
- **Boise County:**
 - Boise Basin Library - 123 Montgomery St, Idaho City
 - Crouch Community Hall - 342 Village Circle, Garden Valley
- **Elmore County:**
 - Mountain Home Junior High School - 1600 East 6th South, Mountain Home
- **Valley County:**
 - Cascade Community Center - 109 W Pine St., Cascade
 - Barbara R. Morgan Elementary School – 125 Samson Trail, McCall

Dates and times will be announced once we are certain we have enough vaccine to serve everyone in the priority groups.

When will the PODs open?

Soon, hopefully by the end of October. It all depends on the delivery of vaccine. It is our goal to serve as many people as possible and we want to make sure we have an adequate supply of vaccine on hand. Please check the CDHD website: www.cdhd.idaho.gov or call the Flu Hotline at 321-2222 for the most current information.

Notice will also be put out in the media, so watch TV news, listen to the radio and read the newspaper. We will make every attempt to inform the public with details as soon as they become available.

What about my kids, can they get the H1N1 flu vaccine?

Yes! Starting Monday October 19th CDHD nurses will be teaming up with school nurses in the Boise and Meridian school districts to vaccinate students in elementary schools. These two districts were chosen as a starting place because they are the two largest districts in the state and therefore have the most students, and each has a cadre of school nurses to help our staff in the immunization process.

Other public schools in the four counties served by CDHD (Ada, Elmore, Boise & Valley) will also be visited by teams of nurses. We hope to complete the school vaccination process within four to five weeks.

Children in private schools, charter schools and those schooled at home will be able to go to one of the public PODs for their vaccinations. Children absent from school on the day of vaccinations can also go to one of the PODs.

All students must have a consent form signed by a parent or guardian before being able to get a flu vaccination.

What will is cost to get the H1N1 flu vaccine?

All vaccine distributed by the public health department it will be free. Later, when the vaccine is made available in the community through private providers, you may be charged an administration fee.

What's the difference between the flu shot and the nasal spray?

Both the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines are available in two forms:

- **The "flu shot"** – an inactivated vaccine (containing killed virus) that is given with a needle. The seasonal flu shot is approved for use in people 6 months of age and older, including healthy people and people with chronic medical conditions.

- **The nasal-spray flu vaccine** – a vaccine made with live, weakened flu viruses that do not cause the flu (sometimes called LAIV for "Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine"). LAIV is approved for use in healthy* people 2-49 years of age who are not pregnant.

About two weeks after vaccination, antibodies develop that protect against influenza virus infection. Flu vaccines will not protect against flu-like illnesses caused by non-influenza viruses.

Where can I get a seasonal flu shot?

Seasonal flu vaccine is in somewhat short supply right now. CDHD does not provide adult flu vaccine and is currently without children's flu vaccine. We expect to get more children's vaccine by mid-to-late November. Many private providers are reporting the same situation. They have no vaccine, but expect it within a month. There is some information on other flu clinics on the CDHD website <http://cdhd.idaho.gov/IMM/flu/fluclinics.htm>