

Most Asked Questions about H1N1 Flu

Updated 10-20-09

When can I get the H1N1 flu vaccine?

The Central District Health Department will open its Ada County Points of Dispensing (PODs) facilities for Priority Groups on Saturday October 24th at 10:00 a.m. The PODs will be open every Saturday (except Saturday November 28th) until a good percentage of Priority Groups are served.

Initial supplies of vaccine are **extremely limited**.

If you're not in a priority group you will be turned away.

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 with direct patient contact (i.e. diagnosing and treating patients with flu-like illness.)
- Children 6 months to 4 years of age
- Children 5 through 18 years of age with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, lung or heart disease, chronic liver or kidney disease, or are immune-compromised because of cancer treatment or HIV.

Why did CDHD narrow the definition of priority groups?

The Central District Health Department is using guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for vaccine distribution if vaccine supply runs short. With the delivery of vaccine less than we expected, we thought it best to target those groups most vulnerable to the serious effects of the flu. In the future we hope to be able to expand the definition of which community members would be welcomed into the Points of Dispensing.

Where can I get the H1N1 flu shot?

Initial supplies of vaccine are **extremely limited**.

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

- **Ada County – Starting at 10 a.m. Saturday October 24th and continuing every Saturday (except November 28th) until there is good coverage of priority groups. (Hours 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. or until vaccine runs out)**
 - The former K-Mart store - 1001 Park Center Blvd., Boise
 - The former Comp USA store - 1195 N Milwaukee St., Boise
- **Boise County – October 28th 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. in each location**
 - Boise Basin Library - 123 Montgomery St, Idaho City
 - Crouch Community Hall - 342 Village Circle, Garden Valley
- **Elmore County – 30th 12:30 – 7:00 p.m.**
 - Mountain Home Junior High School - 1600 East 6th South, Mountain Home
- **Valley County – October 26th & 27th**
 - Barbara R. Morgan Elementary School – 125 Samson Trail, McCall
October 26th 3:30 – 7:00 p.m
 - Cascade Community Church - 109 W Pine St., Cascade
October 27th 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

If you do not fit into one of the Priority Groups you will be turned away.

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

Only if they fit into one of the Priority Groups. On Tuesday October 20th CDHD suspended its in-school vaccination program in the Boise and Meridian school districts when vaccine supplies were exhausted. Restarting the program will depend on vaccine availability.

CDHD intends to provide some vaccine to schools in Elmore, Boise and Valley counties, but access will be limited to children in the above-mentioned Priority Groups.

What about students in private and charter schools?

All children will eventually be served. Currently CDHD is negotiating with a private provider to go to private and charter schools and administer vaccine. The launch of this program depends on vaccine availability.

Children in private schools, charter schools and those schooled at home will still 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 short supply everywhere 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>