

Where to Get a Flu Shot

This document was revised on November 12, 2009

This information is subject to change often and details will be added as they become available. Check <http://www.flu.delaware.gov> frequently for updates.

Seasonal Influenza

Seasonal flu shortage

This year's demand for seasonal influenza vaccine appears to be substantially higher than last year. Most physicians and clinics do not start seeing a large demand for vaccine until late October. This year the cycle has started earlier. We are hearing from physicians that their supply is exhausted and they are having trouble getting more.

Seasonal vaccine supply

Manufacturers also stated they expected much earlier delivery of seasonal influenza vaccine than in previous years. Manufacturers now estimate that 114 million doses will be brought to the U.S. market. The difference between planned and the ultimate number of doses varies by manufacturer, but there have been no major reductions in production. Seasonal flu vaccine has been made available earlier this season compared to previous influenza seasons. Because the total number of doses that will be made this year is approximately the same as the number of doses that were actually administered last year, an increase in demand across the country will mean potential shortages in some areas.

Manufacturers are not able to produce more seasonal influenza vaccine for this season because H1N1 vaccine production takes several months to make. Healthcare providers who have more vaccine than they anticipate using, are being encouraged to work with DPH to identify other providers who can use the vaccine.

Rumors related to the seasonal influenza vaccine supply

One false rumor is that the federal government told the manufacturers to stop making seasonal vaccine earlier than they had planned so that they could switch production to H1N1 vaccine. Actually, manufacturers are finishing their planned number of seasonal flu doses (to about 97%) and have moved on to their planned H1N1 production. Another false rumor is that the manufacturers switched to H1N1 vaccine production because they will make more money on the new vaccine. There is no evidence to support this rumor.

There are many millions of doses yet to be distributed this season. Most individuals will be able to obtain vaccine from their usual provider, but some will have to obtain the vaccine from an alternative provider. People can find seasonal vaccine by checking the American Lung Association web site that identifies clinics that have influenza vaccine available: <http://www.flucliniclocator.org/>.

We are still early in flu season and there is still plenty of time for people to get vaccinated.

Where to get a seasonal flu vaccination

Doctor's Offices (including Federally Qualified Health Centers)

Pediatricians, obstetricians, family practice physicians, and other specialists are offering seasonal influenza vaccinations throughout the state. **A doctor will probably not vaccinate you unless you are already his or her patient.** While initial supplies of seasonal influenza may be low, more is expected in the state.

This is a list of Federally Qualified Health Centers that will offer seasonal influenza vaccination to their patients:

Delmarva Rural Ministries

Kent Community Health Center, 1095 S. Bradford St., Dover, DE 19901
(302) 678-2000

Westside Family Healthcare

Wilmington Location: 1802 W. 4th St., Wilmington, DE
(302) 655-5822

Northeast Location: 908-B East 16th St., Wilmington, DE 19802
(302) 575-1414

Newark Location: 27 Marrows Rd., Newark, DE 19713
(302) 455-0900

Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

Southbridge Location: 601 New Castle Ave., Wilmington, DE
(302) 655-6187

Riverside Location: 700 Lea Blvd., Suite 201, Wilmington, DE 19802
(302) 761-4610

La Red Medical Center

505 W. Market St., Georgetown, DE 19947
(302) 855-1233

Pharmacies

At this time, several large chains have been offering seasonal vaccine like Walgreens (Happy Harry's), CVS, and Rite Aid among others. Their ability to provide this service depends on vaccine availability. Vaccination through pharmacies is especially intended for people who cannot get vaccinated by their doctors, people without a doctor, and people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age (such as childcare workers). The average cost for a seasonal influenza vaccination through pharmacies is \$25.

Check with your local pharmacy to find out when they will offer vaccinations.

Delaware Division of Public Health Clinics

Delaware Division of Public Health seasonal flu shot clinics are intended for those who have no healthcare provider or whose insurance does not cover flu and pneumonia vaccinations. If you are covered, please see your healthcare provider.

DPH has very limited amounts of seasonal flu vaccine left. As long as supplies last, it will be provided to:

- Pregnant women
- Children 6 months to 18 years of age
- People any age with chronic conditions (lung, heart, diabetes, compromised immune systems)
- People 65 or older

Below is a list of clinic sites where appointments can be made.

New Castle County

- Hudson State Service Center, by appointment only, call (302) 255-4555 for age 6 months and above.
- Northeast State Service Center, by appointment only, call (302) 552-3600 for age 8 years old and above

Kent County

- James Williams State Service Center, by appointment only, call (302) 857-5130 for ages 6 months and above

Sussex County

- Georgetown State Service Center, by appointment only, call (302) 856-5213 for ages 6 months and above
- Milford State Service Center, by appointment only, call (302) 424-7150 for ages 6 months and above.

H1N1 Influenza

IMPORTANT: H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINE HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED AS QUICKLY AS ANTICIPATED DUE TO MANUFACTURING DELAYS. IT IS BEING SENT TO THE LOCATIONS BELOW AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. VACCINE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE MANUFACTURERS A LITTLE AT A TIME OVER A 3-MONTH PERIOD. THEREFORE, SOME LOCATIONS MAY HAVE THE VACCINE ONE DAY, BUT NOT THE NEXT.

Is the H1N1 influenza vaccine safe?

We expect the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to have a similar safety profile as seasonal flu vaccines, which have a very good safety track record. Over the years, hundreds of millions of Americans have received seasonal flu vaccines. The most common side effects following flu vaccinations are mild, such as soreness, redness, tenderness or swelling where the shot was given. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will closely monitor for any signs that the vaccine is causing unexpected adverse events. They will work with state and local health officials to investigate any unusual events. People who have a severe

(life-threatening) allergy to chicken eggs or to any other substance in the vaccine should not be vaccinated.

Who should get an H1N1 vaccination?

You should be vaccinated if you fall into one of the following groups:

- Pregnant women
- Persons who live with or provide care for infants less than 6 months (e.g. parents, siblings, and daycare providers)
- Health-care and emergency medical services personnel
- Persons ages 6 month – 24 years
- Persons aged 25 years-64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza complications

However, because the vaccine supply has not yet been adequate to meet the demand among these groups, many healthcare providers are restricting vaccine to only those within this group who are at the highest risk of complications of the flu.

Where to get a H1N1 vaccination

Vaccine is arriving in very limited quantities, and we are targeting this early vaccine to high-risk individuals. When it is more widely available, vaccine will be offered more people. Please continue to check back at www.flu.delaware.gov for availability. The following retail locations and public health-sponsored sites may have vaccine.

Because H1N1 influenza vaccine is being provided at no cost to healthcare providers, you should not be charged for the vaccine itself. However, you may be charged by your healthcare provider to administer the vaccination. Your healthcare insurance may cover the cost of administration.

Please note that Delaware's Division of Public Health is distributing H1N1 influenza vaccine based upon requests. A doctor's office will not receive vaccine if they did not request it.

Special Clinics

The Division of Public Health is monitoring the supply of vaccine and how it is being used. From time-to-time, special clinics may be offered. Please check our website (www.flu.delaware.gov) and look for public announcements for details on special clinics.

Doctor's Offices (including Federally Qualified Health Centers)

Pediatricians, obstetricians, family practice physicians, internists and other specialists who requested H1N1 influenza vaccine from DPH will receive it at various times over the next few months. A doctor will probably not vaccinate you unless you are already his or her patient.

This list of Federally Qualified Health Centers will offer H1N1 influenza vaccination to their patients:

Delmarva Rural Ministries

Kent Community Health Center, 1095 S. Bradford St., Dover, DE 19901
(302) 678-2000

Westside Family Healthcare

Wilmington Location: 1802 W. 4th St., Wilmington, DE
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(302) 855-1233

The H1N1 influenza vaccine has been distributed to obstetricians, family practice doctors, and pediatricians in small quantities since mid-October. Some other doctor offices will receive it starting in late-November. If you are unable to get vaccinated by your doctor, see below for other ways to be vaccinated.

Public Schools (including Charter Schools)

The Division of Public Health has begun offering H1N1 influenza vaccination to elementary, middle and high schools beginning in early November. Teams will travel to these schools over several months to provide the vaccinations. Vaccination is voluntary and parents or guardians must grant written permission before students can be vaccinated. Schools have or will send out a letter informing parents when vaccination will be offered at school. Elementary school students will get a nasal spray vaccination. Middle school and high school students will get the injectable vaccination. Children under 10 years of age will require two vaccinations approximately one month apart. For information on a specific school, please check with your child's school.

Note: Vaccination in public schools will be for students only.

Private Schools

The Division of Public Health has offered H1N1 influenza vaccination to those private schools with health centers. Teams will travel to these schools starting in Mid-November to provide the vaccination. Check with the school to determine their arrangements.

Private schools that elect not to administer vaccine -- and other private schools without health centers -- can direct students to their private physicians and other locations for the vaccine. In addition, DPH is working on a special clinic for these students. Information about this special clinic will be posted to www.flu.delaware.gov when details are available.

Note: Vaccination in private schools will be for students only.

Colleges and Universities

The University of Delaware, Delaware State University, Delaware Technical College (some campuses), and Wesley College have requested H1N1 influenza vaccine for students. Some other colleges and universities will provide vaccination by contracting with local healthcare facilities. Check with your college and university to determine their arrangements.

Colleges and Universities should start getting H1N1 vaccine in December.

Students in colleges or universities without health centers, or that are not offering vaccine by contracting with local healthcare facilities, should seek an immunization through their primary healthcare provider or at other locations.

Pharmacies

At this time, the Division of Public Health is working with retail pharmacies to offer H1N1 vaccination to people who are in the groups listed at the beginning of this document. Offering vaccination through pharmacies is especially intended for people who cannot get vaccinated by their doctors, people without a doctor, and people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age (such as childcare workers).

There may be a small charge for the administration of the vaccine. Insurance companies may cover this cost.

Pharmacies have not yet received a supply of H1N1 vaccine. They may be able to vaccinate you in December.

Healthcare Facilities (including Advanced and Basic Life Support Agencies)

Hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities have requested H1N1 influenza vaccine for their healthcare providers and in some cases their patients.

PLEASE NOTE: These facilities are not offering vaccination to the public.

Division of Public Health Clinics

DPH flu shot clinics are intended for those in the high priority groups for H1N1 who cannot find the vaccine in the private sector. DPH is offering H1N1 vaccination at state service centers throughout the state by appointment. Locations are below.

Because of less than adequate supply of vaccine, DPH has temporarily narrowed the target population for H1N1 vaccines to those most at risk.

- Pregnant women
- People who live or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Children 6 months to 4 years of age
- People 5 to 64 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza complications

If you are not in one of the above groups, you cannot be vaccinated at a DPH clinic at this time. However, you may be eligible as more vaccine becomes available.

New Castle County

- Hudson State Service Center, by appointment only, call (302) 255-4555 for age 6 months and above.
- Northeast State Service Center, by appointment only, call (302) 552-3600 for age 8 years old and above

Kent County

- James Williams State Service Center, by appointment only, call (302) 857-5130 for ages 6 months and above

Sussex County

- Georgetown State Service Center, by appointment only, call (302) 856-5213 for ages 6 months and above

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Where to get a H1N1 shot in Delaware
Subject to change

Where	Who	When	Comments
Doctor's Office	Doctor's are prioritizing based on availability	Now	Vaccine is being made available every week. Check with your doctor.
Public Schools	All children, K-12	Now	Teams will be traveling to schools between now and mid-January. Grades K-5 get nasal vaccine. Grades 6-12 get injected vaccine.
DPH Clinics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant women • People who live or care for children younger than 6 months of age • Children 6 months to 4 years of age • People 5 to 64 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza complications 	Now	Appointments only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hudson State Service Center, call (302) 255-4555 for age 6 months and above. • Northeast State Service Center call (302) 552-3600 for age 8 years old and above • James Williams State Service Center, call (302) 857-5130 for ages 6 months and above • Georgetown State Service Center call (302) 856-5213 for ages 6 months and above
Special Clinics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants and children 6 months to 4 years of age • Pregnant women • Those 5 to 64 years of age with chronic conditions 	Nov 20, 21, 22	Appointments only. Call 1-866-408-1899 on Nov. 16
Private School and Home schooled	All children, K-12	Being Scheduled Now	Information will be provided by school.
Colleges and Universities	Students meeting eligibility criteria*	Pending	
Pharmacies	Persons meeting eligibility criteria*	Pending	

*eligibility criteria for these vaccination opportunities are:

- 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