



Health Department Flu Update: 12/10/09

Earlier today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced that all Illinoisans will be eligible to receive the H1N1 flu vaccination beginning December 15. This announcement increases access to the H1N1 vaccine for Lake County residents, but local providers will have flexibility to determine if it is necessary to continue prioritizing the vaccine for the at-risk populations, based on their needs. The announcement also mentions that pharmacies that have ordered vaccine should be able to provide H1N1 flu vaccinations in the coming weeks.

In light of these changes, the Health Department will expand vaccine availability at its Gurnee clinic beginning December 15.

Appointments for H1N1 vaccinations will be available to all people, six months of age and older, at this location. Please note that many of these appointments have already been filled, but appointments will continue to be accepted and vaccine will continue to be provided at least through the end of January. The vaccinations are offered at no charge.

Gurnee

Advocate Condell Medical Building
1425 Hunt Club Road, Suite 103

Dates: Opening Friday, December 11, and continuing at least through the month of January

Hours:

Monday – Friday: 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To make an appointment (in English or Spanish), please call: (888) 523-5727, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Please do not contact the site directly.

The patience of all those who have been waiting has been appreciated. It is still very important that people in high priority groups continue to make appointments either with the Health Department or with their providers to get the vaccine. The vaccine should be available at many more local health care provider facilities, such as retail pharmacies, very soon.

As future Health Department vaccination clinics and plans are available, information will be shared publicly and will be available through the Health Department's Flu Hotline, 847.377.8350 and web page, www.lakecountyil.gov/health/h1n1.htm

What You Can Do

Practice Healthy Habits

In addition to getting your seasonal flu shot, help prevent the spread of flu in the workplace, schools and throughout the community by:

- Staying home if you are sick
- Covering your cough and sneeze
- Washing your hands frequently

Additional important items to remember about flu include:

- Overall, people are most contagious during the first three days of illness, so staying home during this time is especially important to not spread the flu to coworkers, friends or fellow students.
- People with flu-like symptoms should stay home from school, work and social gatherings until 24 hours after resolution of their fever (less than 100 F) without fever reducing medications.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that children 9 and younger receive two doses of 2009 H1N1 vaccine, which should be separated by one month. One dose is recommended for everyone else.

Access Reliable Information

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Health/H1N1.htm>

<http://www.flu.gov/>

<http://ready.illinois.gov>

The Health Department's H1N1 hotline number is: 847-377-8350.