



Francis G. Slay
Mayor

NEWS

City of St. Louis Department of Health



Pamela Rice Walker, MPA, CPHA
Interim Director of Health
Melba R. Moore, MS, CPHA
Commissioner of Health

Contact: Pamela Walker, Interim Director of Health
Phone: 314/657-1463

November 16, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Expands H1N1 Vaccinations

The City of St. Louis Department of Health is preparing to expand its H1N1 vaccination clinics to the estimated 145 local public, private, parochial, and charter schools as more vaccine becomes available from the Centers for Disease Control. The Department of Health is working with St. Louis schools (public, private, parochial and charter) and the CDC to effectively vaccinate this priority group, starting with the youngest school-age children.

“Our public health surveillance indicates that the flu is disproportionately hitting school age children from 4 to 14,” said Pamela Walker, Director of Health. “So, as we get more vaccine, we will be focusing on grade schools and middle schools with vaccination clinics. When we are finished with them, we will move on to high schools.”

Because the amount of vaccine is limited, the Health Department has been focusing on people who are at greatest risk—children under the age of six, older children with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, and first responders.

With more vaccine becoming available, school clinics will begin mass vaccinations of students the week of November 16. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their child’s school for information relating to their school clinic and to get a permission slip. All children under 18 will require a signed permission slip to receive the vaccine.

“If we receive the amount of vaccine promised, we will be able to stay on schedule to offer vaccines to every elementary and middle school student who wants it by Christmas,” Walker said. “But, when and how much vaccine we get is out of our hands.”

City residents who fall into the highest at-risk category are still encouraged to contact their physician for information on visiting one of 54 clinics (including 10 hospitals) in the St. Louis area.

For more information, please call the Health Department at 314-612-5400.

#####