

## School Vaccination Clinics

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### \*Who will be giving the vaccinations?

The vaccinations would be coordinated through Beltrami County Public Health. Some school district health services may be assisting. All vaccinations will be given by a licensed nurse.

#### \*When are the clinics?

The times are approximate-largely depending upon number of consent forms returned in each school.

December 16: MS 9:00 AM-1:00 PM (or when finished)

December 17: Bylaw 1:45 PM-2:00 PM

1<sup>st</sup> City 2:15 PM-2:45 PM

AEC 3:00 PM-3:30 PM

December 21: HS 8:45 AM-1:00 PM ( or when finished)

#### \*Could the clinics be cancelled? Why?

If public health does not receive the amount of vaccine promised, we might not be able to have the clinics. At this point, it appears that we will have sufficient amounts of both injectable and mist. Or if school is cancelled due to the weather-the clinics would be postponed.

#### \*Who qualifies? Can I bring my younger children? Can I get the vaccine at the school clinic?

All students in the Bemidji School District are eligible for the vaccination. A signed vaccination consent form must be present for the student to be vaccinated. Students ages 18 and older legally have the right to sign for their own vaccination. No preschoolers or other family members can receive the vaccination at the school clinics at this time.

#### \*Do I need to be there with my child?

No, you are not required to be there. If you feel your child needs you there, you would need to sign in at the main office as any time you visit the school. Some children actually may do better without their parents there.

But completed vaccination permission forms with a parent/guardian signature are required in order for the child to be vaccinated or signed by a student for themselves if they are 18 years old or older

\*What if I don't want my child vaccinated?

Children need to have the vaccination form filled out and signed by a parent or guardian. No child will receive the vaccination without that completed form. If you don't want your child vaccinated, do not return the form.

\*What if my child has already had the flu or what I think was H1N1? Should they get the vaccine?

Unless they have had a confirmed test for H1N1, there is no way to tell if they actually had H1N1. Most of the flu tests they might have had in a clinic would be for Influenza A, which is not a specific H1N1 test. The H1N1 test is sent only to specialized laboratories and takes several days to get the results.

The CDC (Centers of Disease Control) is recommending that anyone who has not had a laboratory confirmed case of H1N1 should get the vaccination.

[http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/diagnostic\\_testing\\_public\\_qa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/diagnostic_testing_public_qa.htm)

\*I think that my child received a flu vaccine. What is the difference between the H1N1 vaccine and the seasonal vaccine? Was the H1N1 vaccine given with the seasonal vaccine my child already received?

Below is a fact sheet about the seasonal versus the H1N1 vaccine. Different vaccines protect people from different influenzas. The H1N1 vaccine has not been in the community very long. Unless you absolutely know that your child received the H1N1 vaccine, they may have received the seasonal flu vaccine.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>

\*Which vaccine will be used? Flumist nose spray or injectable?

On the consent form, a section allows you to choose between the injection or mist, although you can leave that area blank. If you do not choose between the injection and mist, the public health nurses will be able to determine which vaccine will be used. The majority of students are eligible to receive the Flumist-nose spray. If the student has an underlying medical reason or you prefer it, the injection will be given. As far as protection from H1N1, both vaccines offer equal protection. Below are some fact sheets on both forms of the vaccine.

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/hcp/vaccine/screenflumist.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/vis-inact-h1n1.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/vis-laiv-h1n1.pdf>

\*How safe are the vaccines? Is the Flumist safe and as effective? What are the side effects of the vaccines?

Information on safety and side effects are available on the websites below.

[http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine\\_safety\\_qa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine_safety_qa.htm)

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/vis-laiv-h1n1.pdf>

\*What if I have more questions?

Some helpful websites on H1N1 include:

[http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general\\_info.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm)

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/index.html>

<http://flu.gov/>

[http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/Support/health\\_h1n1.html](http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/Support/health_h1n1.html)

If you think you have the flu, call the MN Dept. of Health Nurse Triage line at 866-259-4655.

For any other unanswered questions, contact Sue Nokleby, Bemidji School Nurse at 333-3100 ex. 209.