

Livingston County Department of Health

Frequently Asked Questions about H1N1 and H1N1 vaccine in Livingston County

What is the status of seasonal and H1N1 flu in Livingston County?

Updated 1/21/10

The Livingston County Department of Health monitors influenza cases daily. The rates of influenza are increasing. Currently, the number of H1N1 cases cannot be determined as all healthcare providers will not be testing for H1N1 unless a person is hospitalized. Currently, school absentee rates are higher now than at this time last year. Please do not be alarmed—Influenza may be the cause. The Livingston County Department of Health and school districts have advised staff and students to stay home if they are feeling ill.

Where is the H1N1 vaccine?

The Livingston County Department of Health has placed orders for the H1N1 vaccination. The vaccine is arriving more slowly than expected and in smaller amounts. Currently the Livingston County Department of Health is offering the H1N1 vaccine to pregnant women, household contacts of those under 6 months of age, and healthy children ages 2-5.

How is it being distributed?

As vaccine becomes available, clinics will be scheduled for the other priority groups which includes:

- Emergency medical personnel
- Healthcare workers
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Adults 25-64 years of age with chronic medical conditions

How long will vaccine last?

As with the seasonal flu vaccine, the H1N1 vaccine provides immunity for 1 year. Next year's seasonal flu vaccine may contain the H1N1 component.

Is the vaccine harmful or are there side affects?

H1N1 vaccine is developed the same way as seasonal flu vaccine, and is as safe as seasonal. It is simply a strain change. There is no reason to believe it will affect a person any differently than the seasonal flu vaccine. Side affects may include mild local reactions such as redness or swelling at the injection site, as in any vaccination. If you have more specific questions about the vaccination please call the health department and you will be able to speak to a nurse.

How will I know when H1N1 is being offered to me?

All seasonal and H1N1 Influenza vaccines will be advertised in the Livingston County pennysavers and on the County website.

For questions or more information about the flu or flu vaccine, contact the Livingston County Department of Health at 1-877-280-6775. Please visit our website for the most up to date information at http://www.livingstoncounty.us/doh_home.php.

