

James City County

Newport News

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Department of Public Health
Peninsula Health District*

News Release

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Peninsula Health District Announces Availability of 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

Newport News, Va., October 16, 2009 – The Peninsula Health District, Virginia Department of Health, in partnership with the local public school systems, will be offering the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine at the Peninsula Health Center and at seven After School Vaccine Clinics during the week of October 19-23. Some pediatric and family medicine physicians caring for children have also received small quantities of the H1N1 flu vaccine.

Peninsula Health Center, 416 J Clyde Morris Boulevard, Newport News

By appointment only

Call (757) 594-7069 during normal working hours to schedule an appointment.

After School Vaccine Clinics (all clinics will run from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

Tuesday, October 20

Crittenden Middle School, 6158 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News

Wednesday, October 21

Passage Middle School, 400 Atkinson Way, Newport News

Poquoson Elementary School, 1033 Poquoson Avenue, Poquoson

Thursday, October 22

Huntington Middle School, 3401 Orcutt Avenue, Newport News

Matthew Whaley Elementary School, 301 Scotland Street, Williamsburg

Friday, October 23

McIntosh Elementary School, 185 Richneck Road, Newport News

James River Elementary School, 8901 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg

The H1N1 influenza vaccine is recommended at this time for persons in the following target groups:

- Anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age
- Anyone 25 - 64 years old with certain chronic medical conditions or a weakened immune system
- Healthcare and emergency medical service personnel who work directly with patients

Persons in these target groups are at the highest risk for H1N1 influenza infection or for having complications from influenza if they do become infected. "I ask anyone, who is not in one of the

target groups, to wait until later in the vaccine campaign to receive their H1N1 influenza vaccine,” said health director Dr. David Trump. In particular, the risk for infection with H1N1 influenza among persons age 65 or older is less than the risk for children and young adults.

The After School Vaccine Clinics are designed to make vaccine readily available to all families with school-aged and pre-school-aged children. Children do not need to be enrolled in a public school to attend an After School Clinic. Receiving the vaccine is voluntary; the vaccine is not required for school attendance. At an After School Vaccine Clinic:

- You will receive Vaccine Information Sheets, which provide detailed information about the disease and the vaccines.
- A parent, a legal guardian, or an adult acting *in loco parentis* will sign a consent form for the child to receive the vaccine. We request that a person providing consent in place of a parent/legal guardian have a written statement from the parent/legal guardian.

There is no cost to receive the H1N1 influenza vaccine provided by the Virginia Department of Health at After School Vaccine Clinics or at the Peninsula Health Center. Inactivated vaccine (the shot, the injection) will be available at every clinic location. This vaccine is approved for those greater than 6 months of age, who do not have a severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs, or to any other substance in the vaccine. This vaccine does contain a small amount of the preservative thimerosal. Live, intranasal vaccine (the nasal spray vaccine) may be available if there is sufficient supply. This vaccine is approved only for those 2-49 years of age who are not pregnant and who do not have certain health conditions. The nasal spray vaccine is preservative-free. Preservative-free injectable vaccine is not available at this time.

Vaccine supply is determining the timing of all vaccine clinics. After School Vaccine Clinics are tentatively scheduled to continue during the week of October 26th, including at several locations in York County. The in-school vaccine clinics scheduled for the week of October 19th in some middle schools and high schools will be postponed until sufficient vaccine is on hand or scheduled for delivery. Parents and their middle school or high school students, especially the child living with a chronic disease, are encouraged to attend one of the After School Vaccine Clinics. They may also call the health department at 594-7069 or contact the child’s personal physician concerning other vaccination opportunities.

“These are the first doses of the vaccine available to the Peninsula Health District,” Dr. Trump said. “While we want children, pregnant women and others in priority groups to be first in line to get protected against this highly contagious flu strain, we are confident that eventually sufficient vaccine will be available so everyone who wants vaccine can get vaccine.”

For additional information, call Virginia Department of Health’s H1N1 Flu Hotline at 1-877-ASK-VDH3 or go to the VDH H1N1 Vaccine Website www.H1N1GET1.COM.

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