

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Re: Expansion of H1N1 vaccinations to include everyone

Dear Parent:

I am writing to inform you that everyone may now be vaccinated against the H1N1 flu virus. Your family physician may have a supply of vaccine (call first to check). You are also welcome at any of our community clinics. The vaccine is free and no appointment is necessary at our clinic.

We encourage everybody to receive the H1N1 vaccine. The virus is still widespread in Vancouver and will be for many weeks yet. As well, it may return later in the winter (a "third wave"). Even if you think you or your child has been sick with H1N1, we recommend the vaccine for all except people whose illness was confirmed H1N1 by lab test. There is no problem being vaccinated after having had H1N1 flu.

Our clinics are at:

Pacific Spirit Community Health Centre
2110 West 43rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6M 2E1
604-261-6366

Mount Pleasant H1N1 Immunization Clinic
(formerly the Mount Pleasant Community Centre)
3161 Ontario Street, Vancouver, BC, V5T 2Z1
604-709-6400

South Community Health Office
6405 Knight Street, Vancouver, BC, V5P 2V9
604-321-6151

The clinic dates and time are:

Date	Days	Clinic Hours
November 2 to December 19	Monday – Friday	12 noon - 7 p.m.
	Saturday	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

All clinics are on a drop-in basis. There may be line-ups outside, so dress warmly and bring an umbrella. Remember to wear short sleeves and bring your BC CareCard.

Elementary-school-aged children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to provide consent. Secondary school students do not need to be accompanied by an adult. They may give their own consent to vaccination, consistent with provincial practice and BC laws on consent to treatment.

Friday, November 13, 2009

Re: Expansion of H1N1 vaccinations to include school-aged children

Dear Parent:

I am writing to advise that effective immediately, all students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 will be eligible to receive the H1N1 vaccine free of charge at community immunization clinics operated by Vancouver Coastal Health.

Drop-in immunization clinics are being held at the following three locations. Eligible individuals can also be immunized at their family doctor's office.

Pacific Spirit Community Health Centre
2110 West 43rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6M 2E1
604-261-6366

**Mount Pleasant H1N1 Immunization Clinic
(formerly the Mount Pleasant Community Centre)**
3161 Ontario Street, Vancouver, BC, V5T 2Z1
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South Community Health Office
6405 Knight Street, Vancouver, BC, V5P 2V9
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The clinic dates and time are:

Date	Days	Clinic Hours
November 2 to December 19	Monday – Friday	12 noon - 7 p.m.
	Saturday	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

All clinics are on a drop-in basis. Expect line-ups outside. Dress warmly and bring an umbrella. **To help us serve you better:** Remember to wear short sleeves and bring your BC CareCard.

Elementary-school-aged children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to provide consent. Secondary school students do not need to be accompanied by an adult. They will be immunized upon presentation, which is consistent with the provincial practice and BC laws on consent to treatment.



**Medical health Officer
Vancouver**

800 – 601 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2
Telephone: 604-675-3863
Facsimile: 604-731-2756

October 15, 2009

To Parents and Staff of Vancouver Board of Education schools

An update on H1N1 influenza virus (human swine flu) in Vancouver

Several Vancouver schools have had many students away with flu caused by H1N1 influenza virus. The H1N1 virus is circulating widely in the Lower Mainland.

Almost all children have had illness that, while unpleasant, has not lasted long and has not been severe. If your child, other family members, friends or co-workers fall ill with cough, fever, and muscle aches it is certainly due to H1N1 flu virus at this time.

A safe and effective vaccine against H1N1 will be available in Vancouver at the beginning of November. I will send you details of when and where you can get the vaccine. The vaccine is free and there will be enough for everyone.

- If you or your child has a chronic condition like asthma, diabetes, heart or lung disease, or a problem with the immune system, **consult your doctor now to make a flu plan** so you can get a prescription for an anti-viral drug **quickly** if the flu strikes. Anti-viral drugs work best when started **as soon as possible after symptoms start**. Pregnant women also need a flu plan for quick treatment.
- If your child gets flu symptoms, he (or she) should stay at home until symptoms get better and he (or she) is well enough to return to normal activities.
- You can find helpful information about the H1N1 flu virus and how to look after those sick with it at: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1/backtoschool/>, or call 8-1-1.

Remember, to keep flu from spreading, wash hands often, cough or sneeze into your sleeve (not your hands), and stay home if you are sick. The vaccine will be the best protection against this flu.

Yours sincerely,

John Carsley MD

John Carsley MD MSc FCRPC
Medical Health Officer
School Medical Officer, District 39