

Frequently Asked Questions about School-Based Flu Clinics

This document is not meant to take the place of guidance, health alerts, or advisories that are posted on the Maine CDC web site at www.maineflu.gov. The questions and answers that appear below offer clarification in response to common questions that have been expressed in response to these communications from Maine CDC. This document will be updated periodically as we learn of questions that are being repeatedly asked by those participating in the school-based flu clinic initiative.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Weekly Updates: Check the Thursday morning updates on H1N1 in Maine at www.maineflu.gov – now available as an RSS feed (midway down the center of the homepage).

Health Alert Network: Sign up to receive urgent updates from Maine CDC's Health Alert Network (HAN). The easiest and quickest way to sign up is through the HAN Alert RSS feed at www.mainepublichealth.gov (midway down the center of the homepage).

Follow Maine CDC's Updates:

- **Facebook** (search for "Maine CDC")
- **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/MEPublicHealth>)
- **MySpace** (www.myspace.com/mainepublichealth)
- **Maine CDC's Blog** (<http://mainepublichealth.blogspot.com>)

H1N1 Conference Calls: See the Weekly Updates for scheduled conference calls relating to H1N1.

Consider Calling or Emailing Us:

- For clinical consultation, outbreak management guidance, and reporting of an outbreak of H1N1 call Maine CDC's toll free 24-hour phone line at: 1-800-821-5821.
- General Public Call-in Number for Questions: 1-888-257-0990
NextTalk (deaf/hard of hearing) - (207) 629-5751
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Email your questions to: flu.questions@maine.gov

U.S. CDC H1N1 Recommendations and Guidance:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and <http://www.flu.gov/>

**Q&A from School-located Seasonal and H1N1 Flu Vaccine Clinics Conference Call
Sept. 14, 2009**

Q. Can you schedule seasonal and H1N1 vaccinations at the same time?

A. It is anticipated that vaccine against seasonal flu and vaccine against H1N1 may be administered on the same day. Simultaneous administration of inactivated vaccines against seasonal and H1N1 influenza viruses is permissible if different anatomic sites are used. However, simultaneous administration of live, attenuated vaccines against seasonal and H1N1 influenza viruses is not recommended, so they should be separated by 1 month.

Q. May I bill third party payers?

A. You will be able to bill for vaccine administration (\$5 for MaineCare, and \$14.37 other insurers), but not for the vaccine itself.

For more information on billing MaineCare:

http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/providerfiles/billing_instructions.html

Q. May I charge students/parents?

A. In public clinic settings such as schools and community public clinics, no patient can be charged for vaccine administration (though third party payers, including MaineCare, can be billed, and in many instances be roster billed).

Q. Who needs to register through Maine Responds?

A. Volunteers and other vaccinators who are offering their services outside of their regular employment must register at www.maineresponds.org.

Administrative volunteers or health care workers who will be administering vaccine as part of their regular employment do not have to sign up with Maine Responds.

Q. How do we verify the credentials of volunteer vaccinators?

A. Volunteers and other vaccinators who are offering their services outside of their regular employment should register at www.maineresponds.org.

Maine Responds will verify the credentials of volunteers, and they will be added to a list at http://www.maine.gov/mema/mema_news_display.shtml?id=79232.

Q. What do we do with leftover seasonal flu vaccine?

A. Leftover seasonal flu vaccine should go back to the health care provider to whom it was originally distributed so that it can be used for other children. Leftover seasonal flu vaccine should not be used to vaccinate adults. (The answer to this question related to H1N1 vaccine is forthcoming.)

Q. How do we get needles and supplies?

A. Needle tips are being sent directly to schools from Maine Immunization Program. The Department of Education is supplying sharps containers.

Q. Where do sharps containers need to be picked up?

A. The health care provider associated with the clinic will need to dispose of sharps the same way they normally do.

Q. Will Maine CDC issue a standing order for vaccination? Will there be a protocol for anaphylaxis?

A. The standing order, including anaphylaxis protocol, was signed Sept. 14. A copy can be found here: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/schools/documents/standingorder.pdf>

Q. How does seasonal flu vaccine administration need to be documented?

A. The Vaccine Administration Record at the bottom of the parental consent form needs to be completed. The original document goes in the child's school health record. A copy needs to be sent to the child's health care provider (schools may contact providers to see if they will accept rosters instead of individual copies). If the school is using its own supplies and wishes to be reimbursed, a roster or copies of records need to be sent to the Department of Education, Attn: Nancy Dube, School Nurse Consultant.

The Pediatric Vaccine Usage Reporting form needs to be completed and sent to Maine CDC: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/mip/online_forms/2009-forms/providers_forms_09/enrollment_shipping/2009_pediatric_usage_pg4_v2.pdf

ImmPact2 providers may document seasonal flu vaccinations in ImmPact2, but it is not required.

Q. How does H1N1 vaccine administration need to be documented?

A. The Vaccine Administration Record at the bottom of the parental consent form needs to be completed. The original document goes in the child's school health record. A copy needs to be sent to the child's health care provider (schools may contact providers to see if they will accept rosters instead of individual copies). If the school is using its own supplies and wishes to be reimbursed, a roster or copies of records need to be sent to the Department of Education, Attn: Nancy Dube, School Nurse Consultant.

Some reporting of aggregate information will be required by US CDC, and include information such as the number of doses administered and age ranges for those it was given to. Those forms will be posted on www.maine.gov as soon as they are available.

ImmPact2 is not required for H1N1 vaccination documentation.

Q. Will epinephrine and benedryl be supplied?

A. This should be part of the agreement with the health care provider.

Q. If the health care provider can't supply epinephrine or benedryl, can EMS be on site as a backup?

A. This has been a solution in some areas, but it depends on local resources. Contact your local EMS.

Q. Does someone who had H1N1 in the spring need to be vaccinated?

A. The vast majority of cases were not lab-confirmed, and there is generally no harm in getting vaccines if you've had the illness. We still recommend vaccination for people who had influenza-like illness and presumed H1N1.

Q. A student has active mono. Should he or she get vaccinated for the flu?

A. That is a decision that student's parents need to make with their health care provider.

TOPICS AS OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

- Seasonal Flu Vaccine
- H1N1 Vaccine
- Becoming a Maine Immunization Program (MIP) Provider

Seasonal Flu Vaccine

Q. Will seasonal flu vaccine come in vials or pre-filled syringes?

A. For the Seasonal flu school-based vaccine initiative, vaccine will come in either prefilled syringes or FluMist intranasal spray, depending on what the provider ordered.

Providers who placed orders not associated with a school memorandum of agreement (MOA) will receive the presentation they ordered: .25ml syringe, .50ml syringes, multi-dose vial, or FluMist.

Q. Will they come with safety needles?

A. Yes

Q. Can you schedule seasonal and H1N1 vaccinations at the same time?

A. It is anticipated that vaccine against seasonal flu and vaccine against H1N1 may be administered on the same day. Simultaneous administration of inactivated vaccines against seasonal and H1N1 influenza viruses is permissible if different anatomic sites are used. However, simultaneous administration of live, attenuated vaccines against seasonal and H1N1 influenza viruses is not recommended, so they should be separated by 1 month.

Q. Is the seasonal flu vaccine free for all ages?

A. School-located seasonal flu vaccine clinics are free.

Q. Can insurance be billed? MaineCare?

A. Yes, for the administration fee only.

Q. How does seasonal flu vaccine administration need to be documented? Updated 09/16/09

A. The Vaccine Administration Record at the bottom of the parental consent form needs to be completed. The original document goes in the child's school health record. A copy needs to be sent to the child's health care provider (schools may contact providers to see if they will accept rosters instead of individual copies). If the school is using its own supplies and wishes to be reimbursed, a roster or copies of records need to be sent to the Department of Education, Attn: Nancy Dube, School Nurse Consultant.

The Pediatric Vaccine Usage Reporting form needs to be completed and sent to Maine CDC:
http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/mip/online_forms/2009-forms/providers_forms_09/enrollment_shipping/2009_pediatric_usage_pg4_v2.pdf

ImmPact2 providers may document seasonal flu vaccinations in ImmPact2, but it is not required.

Q. Do we send the VIS (Vaccine Information Statement) home with the permission slip?

A. Yes, the school nurse should be sending the VIS with the permission slip.

Q. When will I get a confirmation letter for my school vaccine initiative?

The letter will go out from the Maine Immunization Program (MIP) this week, and will be sent to the superintendent and the medical provider office that signed the MOA.

Q. When will I be receiving the seasonal flu vaccine?

A. Vaccine shipments are starting to trickle in. We have not yet received the thimerosal-free vaccine for the school initiatives. MIP sends a blast fax to the providers once a partial shipment has been approved.

Q. What supplies will be coming with my seasonal flu vaccine? Updated 09/16/09

A. MIP will send to schools only, needle tips and cold and warm mark. The Department of Education will distribute sharps containers, and will reimburse schools that use their own supplies as long as those schools submit copies of the vaccine administration records or a roster of children vaccinated.

Q. Will MIP supply thermometers for the refrigerators?

A. No.

Q. If a school wants to change its original vaccine order request, how is that done?

A. Resubmit the order request with clear markings on the top of the sheet that it is a revised request for vaccine.

H1N1 Flu Vaccine

Q. What do we do to sign up for H1N1 vaccine? Updated 09/11/09

A. Anyone interested in offering H1N1 vaccine must complete and submit the [H1N1 Provider Agreement](#) (even those that are already registered Maine Immunization Program providers and who have already completed paperwork to offer seasonal flu vaccine).

Note: Completing the H1N1 Provider Agreement is your way of demonstrating interest. US CDC has limited the number of sites where we can ship vaccine, so it is possible that not everyone who completes the agreement will actually become an H1N1 Vaccine Provider. If there are more interested providers than available ship-to sites, Maine CDC will work with providers to ensure that there is appropriate regional coverage for vaccine and help facilitate partnerships between providers.

Once the designated H1N1 Vaccine Providers are identified, we will take orders for H1N1 vaccine. The H1N1 Vaccine Order Form is currently being developed and will be posted on our web site as soon as it is available.

In the mean time, we suggest that you start preparing your counts so that you are ready to place your order as soon as we have the ordering process in place.

Q. Is the H1N1 vaccine free for all ages?

A. Yes, the vaccine is free; however, an administration fee may be charged.

Q. Can you schedule seasonal and H1N1 vaccinations at the same time?

A. It is anticipated that vaccine against seasonal flu and vaccine against H1N1 may be administered on the same day. Simultaneous administration of inactivated vaccines against seasonal and H1N1 influenza viruses is permissible if different anatomic sites are used. However, simultaneous administration of live, attenuated vaccines against seasonal and H1N1 influenza viruses is not recommended, so they should be separated by 1 month.

Q. Does Maine have the H1N1 vaccine now?

A. Not yet. We anticipate the arrival of vaccine in mid-October at the earliest.

Q. How does H1N1 vaccine administration need to be documented? Updated 09/16/09

A. The Vaccine Administration Record at the bottom of the parental consent form needs to be completed. The original document goes in the child's school health record. A copy needs to be sent to the child's health care provider (schools may contact providers to see if they will accept rosters instead of individual copies). If the school is using its own supplies and wishes to be reimbursed, a roster or copies of records need to be sent to the Department of Education, Attn: Nancy Dube, School Nurse Consultant.

The CRA report form needs to be completed and sent to Maine CDC. This form has not been developed yet. It will be posted at www.maine flu.gov as soon as it is available.

ImmPact2 is not required for H1N1 vaccination documentation.

Becoming a Maine Immunization Program (MIP) Provider

Q. How do I get a PIN?

A. A PIN is assigned to a provider after they have completed an Immunization Program provider agreement (http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/mip/online_forms/2009-forms/providers_forms_09/enrollment-shipping/2009_provider_contract_final.doc).

Temperature logs and documents to record doses administered can be downloaded here: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/mip/materials.html>

Q. How do I become a MIP Provider?

- Start recording temps in fridge.
- Submit completed agreement (see above).
- MIP will contact you to communicate the PIN, go over the requirements of the agreements, and send you a vaccine order form.

Q. Will MIP supply thermometers for the refrigerators?

A. No.