



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 13, 2009

H1N1 vaccine now available to all healthcare workers

PENSACOLA, FL – Escambia County (FL) now has additional H1N1 vaccine available and is able to serve the priority group of all healthcare workers (which includes Emergency Medical Services personnel and paramedics). Most healthcare workers will be able to get the vaccine from their employer; a private practice can order vaccine by calling 595-6408.

At the Escambia County Health Department (FL), the H1N1 vaccine is available as follows (this changes weekly based on vaccine shipments; check www.EscambiaHealth.com for updates):

Who should get the H1N1 vaccine now:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Pregnant women▪ Caregivers and those who live with infants under six months▪ Children ages 6 months -18 years old▪ All healthcare workers [Note that the majority can get it through their employer; a private practice can order by calling 595-6408.]
Location	Escambia County Health Department 1295 W. Fairfield Drive, Pensacola (this location only) (850) 595-6500 (walk-in only) www.EscambiaHealth.com
Date & Time	Walk-in Only 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday
Cost	No charge for H1N1 vaccine administered at the health department

Weekly Update on Available Vaccine

Residents are asked to check the Health Department's website at www.EscambiaHealth.com at least weekly for updated information. Shipments of H1N1 vaccine do not yet arrive at regular intervals.



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

About the Priority Groups

The federal Centers for Disease Control designated five priority groups who should be the first to get the H1N1 vaccine. Those groups are:

- pregnant women;
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age;
- healthcare and emergency medical services personnel;
- persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old; and,
- persons aged 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

Escambia County's initial focus was to provide vaccine to pregnant women, children ages 6 months -18 years old, and people who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age, and this has now been expanded to also include young adults aged 19-24 years and all healthcare workers.

Vaccination in Schools, Childcare Centers

On Thursday, October 22, the Escambia County Health Department (FL) began offering voluntary H1N1 vaccination to children through schools and childcare centers. School-based vaccination will continue through December as long as vaccine is available. If distribution of the vaccine slows, clinics will be rescheduled. Parents will get information about the vaccine and permission forms as soon as possible before the voluntary vaccination clinic is scheduled to be at their child's school. The Health Department is also providing vaccinations at the larger child care centers in the county.

Protection from H1N1

While Escambia's physicians and health department vaccinate the more than 100,000 residents in the priority groups, those outside the priority groups can take these steps to protect themselves:

- **Wash your hands often and the right way.** Rub soapy hands together for 15 seconds (if you need a timer, imagine singing the "ABC's" song). Use a paper towel to turn off the faucet and touch the bathroom doorknob.
 - If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Wash your hands after using the bathroom, before and after preparing food, before and after taking care of someone who is sick, after changing diapers or cleaning up after a child who has gone to the bathroom, after handling an animal or animal waste, and when your hands are visibly dirty.
- **Stay home if you are sick.** Keep children home if they are sick. Stay home until 24 hours after last fever without fever reducing medications. Avoid others who are sick.



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

-
- **Cover your coughs and sneezes with a disposable tissue.** If you don't have a disposable tissue handy, cover or sneeze into the fabric on your sleeve.
 - **Get your seasonal flu vaccination.** As long as there is seasonal flu vaccine available, it is strongly recommended that individuals get their seasonal flu shot as well as the "pneumonia shot" for individuals with chronic disease and individuals 65 years and above.

-END-

Tradition • Service • Leadership

Escambia County Health Department

1295 W. Fairfield Drive • Pensacola, Florida 32501-1107

John J. Lanza, MD, PhD, MPH, FAAP, CHD Director-Health

www.escambiahealth.com

850. 595.6500