

Frequently Asked Questions about School-Based Clinics in Portage County

I signed a consent for the H1N1 vaccine in October, why did it take so long for clinics to be scheduled?

Vaccine shipments were delayed at the national level; therefore, the State of Wisconsin prioritized who got the vaccine. Those persons most at risk from complications of the flu were given vaccine first.

Is there enough vaccine? Should I be concerned if my child's school is not scheduled for the first week?

We now have enough vaccine to assure that any student who is seen at a school-based or community clinic will be given vaccine.

What kind of vaccine will be available at school clinics? Will you have both nasal and injectable?

We will have both injectable (flu shots) and nasal vaccine (flu mist) at all school clinics. Anyone can get the injection unless they have an egg allergy or had a severe allergic reaction to flu vaccine in the past. Healthy people aged 2 to 49 can receive the nasal vaccine. People with chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, immune deficiencies cannot receive the nasal vaccine.

Where can I get information about the vaccines?

The Vaccine Information Sheets are available on the Portage County Website ([Click here for information on Nasal Vaccine](#)) ([Click here for information on Injectable Vaccine](#))

Do I get to choose which vaccine my child gets?

The consent form allows a parent to choose which vaccine a child gets. Vaccine will be given according to parent choice unless a parent has indicated nasal, but there are medical reasons why the child should receive a flu shot.

I misplaced my consent form, is it too late for me to send a completed consent form to school with my child?

Consent forms are available on the Portage County website: ([Click here for a child consent form](#)).

If you send a completed consent to school, you are giving us permission to give your child their vaccine without you being present.

How will I know that my child got their vaccination?

All persons receiving the H1N1 vaccine are given a Vaccine Record Card. Ask your child for their card.

We will not be giving vaccine to any child who is not able to cooperate at school. We will notify you if your child did not receive the vaccine.

I want to be there when my child is vaccinated. How can I be present?

The easiest way for you to be there when your child is vaccinated is to attend one of the community clinics to be held in Portage County ([Click here for the schedule of community clinics](#)). If you want to be with your child at school, you can come to school the day and time of the clinic at their school ([Click here for schedule of clinics at schools](#)). You will need to complete a consent form at that time. You can save time by printing a consent form and completing it before you arrive ([Click here for a child consent form](#)). Parents will be able to go to the front of the line with their child.

What if my child is sick the day that a clinic is scheduled at their school?

You will need to bring your child to another community clinic. ([Click here for schedule of community clinics](#)).

I sent a completed consent to school with my child but they already got their vaccine. How do I make sure that they don't get another vaccine?

It will not harm anyone if they receive another dose of vaccine, but we would prefer that not happen. If your child was already vaccinated at your private provider, please call 345-5953 and leave a message with your child's name, school, grade, and teacher's name. We will remove their consent from the files.

If your child was vaccinated at a Public Health clinic, the consent should have been used at that clinic. If you did not get the copy of your child's consent at the registration desk, please call 345-5953 and leave a message with your child's name, school, grade and teacher's name. We will remove their consent from the files.

How much does the H1N1 vaccine cost if my child gets it at school?

There is no cost for this vaccine if it is given by Public Health in school or at a community clinic.

**I understand that anyone less than 10 years old needs 2 doses of vaccine.
When and where can my child get a second dose?**

If we vaccinate your child at school, they will be given their second dose at another clinic at their school. There needs to be at least 21 days between the first and second dose. It is OK for there to be more than 21 days. You will be notified of those clinic dates and times.

I think my child already had H1N1. Should they get the vaccine?

The only way to know for sure that your child had H1N1 was to have a nasal swab tested at a lab when they were ill. It was important for anyone who had a temperature and other flu symptoms to stay home from school, but very few children were actually tested for H1N1. There are many viruses that have these same symptoms so it is very possible that your child did not have H1N1 Influenza A.

We know that there will be more outbreaks of H1N1 Influenza A. The best way to assure that your child is protected from H1N1 is to vaccinate them. Even if they had H1N1, the vaccine will provide a boost to their immunity and will not harm them.