



Warren County Health Department

MEMO

Date: October 20, 2009

Re: H1N1 school based clinics

H1N1 was first confirmed in Warren County in April of 2009. It is important to remember that the virus did not go away. It continued to circulate quietly through the summer months. The flu virus does not typically survive well in warmer temperatures but H1N1 did. Now that the temperature outside is dropping and children are back in school it is a perfect environment for H1N1 along with many other illnesses. A case of H1N1 has been recently confirmed in Warren County and surrounding counties. This is not the time of year we usually are battling seasonal flu. Seasonal flu occurs in January, February and March. If you go to your physician with influenza like illness—fever, cough, sore throat, headache, runny nose, and body aches, you may be tested for influenza using a rapid test for Type A or Type B influenza. The health department is receiving many reports of Type A influenza from local physicians. The Type A influenza is most likely H1N1. Confirmation testing for H1N1 is only being recommended for hospitalized patients. The school districts are screening for symptoms and sending kids home who have a temperature of 100° or higher. Sick students should remain out of school until 24 hours after the fever subsides without fever reducing medicine. It is important to know that with H1N1 you can be contagious the day before you show signs of symptoms. We encourage everyone to cover their cough, wash your hands, and stay home if you are ill. Fighting the spread of H1N1 will be a community effort.

The health department is working closely with the schools to conduct H1N1 vaccination clinics. Plans are in place and staff are ready to respond. However, the delay in the delivery of vaccine has made scheduling clinics difficult. We currently only have a limited amount of nasal spray and we are waiting on the injection. We have ordered single dose vials that are preservative free and those have not been dispersed yet by the CDC. Your responses on the pre-consent form will allow us to respond immediately to the school once vaccine is delivered. Please mark on the consent form whether you prefer your child be given the nasal mist or the shot. Keep in mind that if they received seasonal flu mist there has to be 28 days between that and the H1N1 mist. Also, be sure to mark if you want to be present during the vaccination. If you have any questions about the H1N1 vaccination, please contact our office at 309-734-1314.

Sincerely,
Jenna Link, BS, LEHP
Administrator