

November 23, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: H1N1 vaccine available to all children

You will likely be aware that Ottawa’s H1N1 vaccination clinics are now open to all Ottawa residents.

The H1N1 vaccine is the best way to protect you and your child(ren) against the flu this year, and I encourage all residents to get vaccinated. While children over six months are eligible for the H1N1 vaccine, not all require a second dose.**

Category	Dosing Recommendation
Age 0-5 months	H1N1 flu vaccine not authorized for use
Age over 6 months and less than 3 years	2 half-doses of adjuvanted* vaccine, administered at least 21 days apart
Age 3 to 9 years Healthy children	1 half-dose of adjuvanted* vaccine, for now**
Age 3 to 9 years Children with chronic medical conditions	2 half-doses of adjuvanted* vaccine, administered at least 21 days apart
Age 10 to 64 years Healthy people	1 dose of either adjuvanted* or unadjuvanted vaccine
Age 10 to 64 years People with chronic medical conditions	1 dose of adjuvanted* vaccine

* An adjuvant is a substance that is added to a vaccine to boost the individual’s immune response. It includes naturally occurring oil (called squalene), water and vitamin E.

** These recommendations may be updated as more information becomes available.

The H1N1 vaccine is currently available through Ottawa Public Health vaccination clinics, as well as a limited number of physicians. In addition to six fixed clinic sites, Ottawa Public Health will operate a number of roving clinics across the city this November and December. In an effort to minimize line-ups, wristbands will be given out at all clinics from Monday to Friday beginning at 9 a.m. and on weekends beginning at 7:30 a.m. Once you receive one or more wristbands for you and your family, you will be given an estimated time (if necessary) to return to the clinic – avoiding a long wait time. For clinic locations, schedules and wait times visit ottawa.ca/health or call 3-1-1.

If you are bringing a child for a second dose of the vaccine at a City clinic, please identify yourself to City staff when you arrive at the clinic. You will be asked to show the immunization record that you received when your child received the first dose of the H1N1 vaccine.

For more information on H1N1, visit ottawa.ca/health or contact the Ottawa Public Health Information Line at 613-580-6744.

Sincerely,

Dr. Isra Levy
 Medical Officer of Health

