

Cook County Department of Public Health

Cook County Health & Hospitals System

(formerly Cook County Bureau of Health Services)

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75,000 School Age Children in Suburban Cook County Receive H1N1 Vaccine

Collaboration between schools and health department successful in vaccinating students

Through the voluntary school-based vaccination campaign, Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) officials vaccinated more than 75,000 students in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade in suburban Cook County in 30 working days. The school-based campaign has been successful in reaching a large number of students.

“Since the first wave of H1N1 appeared in April 09, we initiated plans to begin vaccinating school-age children in suburban Cook County because we knew children are at higher risk for complications from H1N1,” said CCDPH chief operating officer, Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H. “Our jurisdiction is diverse and complex, therefore we felt the best way to reach such a large priority population was to bring the vaccine to the children in schools.”

The voluntary school-based vaccination program has been a collaborative effort between CCDPH and schools in suburban Cook County.

“Working with the Cook County Department of Public Health on their school vaccination campaign for our schools was a success,” said David Beery, Director of Public Relations for Maine Township School District 207. “We were able to vaccinate at all three of our high schools on the same day, which was a big plus for us. They sent plenty of vaccinators, and their staff worked very efficiently and professionally with our students while answering whatever questions our students still had.”

The vaccination efforts in schools will be suspended during the holiday break and will resume the first week in January. During that time, CCDPH staff will continue to provide vaccine at the appointment clinics as well as in suburban Cook County daycares.

For more information about CCDPH vaccination efforts, please visit www.cookcountypublichealth.org.

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