

Cook County Department of Public Health

Cook County Health & Hospitals System

(formerly Cook County Bureau of Health Services)

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Cook County Department of Public Health Expands H1N1 Vaccine Efforts

30,000 K-8 school-aged children vaccinated in suburban Cook County, officials expanding to high schools and daycares

This week, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) expanded its voluntary school-based vaccination campaign to include high schools and licensed daycare facilities. Since officials began vaccinating students in K-8 schools within suburban Cook County, 30,000 students have been vaccinated in 11 working days.

“Vaccinating such a large population of students in such a short period of time is a great success in protecting our children in suburban Cook County who are at a high risk for complications from H1N1,” said CCDPH chief operating officer, Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H. “This week, we expanded our efforts to include high schools and licensed daycares facilities to reach an even larger population of individuals within the priority group.”

Vaccine is being distributed to residents of suburban Cook County who fall within the priority groups identified by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) including all pregnant women, caretakers and household contacts of children under 6 months of age, healthcare and emergency medical services employees, individuals 6 months to 24 years of age, and individuals 25 to 64 years of age with underlying medical conditions, such as asthma or diabetes, that put them at high risk for flu-related complications.

In addition to the school-based campaign, CCDPH administered an additional 6,250 doses at appointment-only and walk-in clinics and to CCDPH health workers. To continue vaccination efforts through 12-18-09, an estimated 79,300 H1N1 doses are needed with 69,500 allocated for the school-based campaign and 9,800 for appointment only and walk-in sites.

CCDPH has received six different types of H1N1 vaccine totaling 184,500 doses. In addition to administering vaccine, CCDPH staff reallocated 21,700 doses to hospitals, other local public health departments and obstetricians to respond to the vaccine shortage.

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

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