

H1N1 Vaccination Update

The Norfolk Board of Health is continuing its' efforts to coordinate the town's response to the H1N1 flu. Due to the risk H1N1 poses to our youth, planning is underway to offer vaccination to children attending K-12th grade. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated that adjustments are being made to the amount of H1N1 vaccine that is expected to be available during October and November.

Given this recent notice from the CDC, in-school vaccination clinics at KPMS & KPHS, and Saturday clinics for children attending K-6th grade have been temporarily delayed pending additional information concerning vaccine production and availability.

Residents and employees of the Town of Norfolk who are included in a priority group and seek vaccination are encouraged to consult their medical provider, as pediatricians, family practitioners, obstetricians, and other high priority sites are beginning to receive the first shipments of H1N1 vaccine.

In recent weeks, the CDC has determined that a single dose of H1N1 vaccine is effective for persons 10 and older, but children under 10 must receive two doses separated by 3-4 weeks. Given that they will require two doses, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has asked medical providers to expand the prioritized groups for H1N1 vaccination to include children 6 months to 9 years of age.

Other groups which have been previously identified for prioritized vaccination include: pregnant women; people who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers); healthcare and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact; and children 6 months to 18 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

The Centers for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health will continue to issue updates and recommendations regarding the H1N1 influenza and vaccine production. We will respond to these updates accordingly.

Norfolk Board of Health