

How to find an H1N1 Influenza A vaccination:

As you are probably aware, the production of H1N1 vaccine has been slower than originally anticipated and the federal distribution system has experienced “glitches” which have also significantly impaired the ability of providers to obtain vaccine in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, Rockaway Township has been among those who have received a very limited amount of vaccine and we are still waiting for the bulk of our order. We are doing everything in our power to obtain vaccine and to assist our residents in finding vaccination clinics in the interim.

The vaccine is the property of the federal government which controls the distribution of the vaccine. In order to obtain vaccine Rockaway Township and other providers were required to register, order, store, administer and document doses administered in accordance with federal regulations.

In accordance with the signed agreement H1N1 vaccine can be administered to members of priority groups identified by the Centers for Disease Control. The priority groups include:

- Pregnant women
- Close contacts of infants less than six months of age
- Children ages 6 months to 24 years of age
- People 25 to 64 years of age with underlying medical conditions of the lungs, heart, liver, kidneys, cancer or a weakened immune system
- Health care workers and EMS

When the priority groups have been vaccinated the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services will notify providers that vaccinations can be provided to the general public. Local Health Departments are required, in accordance with the agreement, to provide vaccine to anyone who fits the criteria of the above referenced priority groups regardless of their residence. Therefore, if you are a member of a high risk group you can attend any public clinic. Additionally, public health clinics must provide the vaccine at no charge.

Health Departments in Morris County have worked collaboratively to make vaccine available to those who are eligible to receive it. The best source to find clinics planned in the county is to visit the Morris County Office of Health Management’s website at: www.morrishumanservices.org/health/blogs/2009/10/h1n1-vaccination-clinics.html . Listings include pharmacies, urgent care centers, municipal health departments and private providers. The pharmacies, urgent care center, and private providers cannot charge for the vaccine, but are allowed to charge an administration fee. To view clinics throughout the state go to the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services website at: www.state.nj.us/health .

Rockaway Township will be conducting H1N1 Influenza Vaccination Programs as vaccine inventory permits.