

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2009 H1N1 Flu Vaccine Now Available For Healthy Children Ages 2 to 4 Years Old

The DeKalb County Board of Health will begin administering its early shipment of H1N1 vaccine for healthy children ages 2 to 4 years old beginning on Wednesday, October 7 at all five of its health centers.

The nasal spray known as live attenuated influenza vaccine is focused on healthy children age 2 to 4 years old in order to reach a population that spreads the virus and is more at risk for hospitalizations. A small portion of the nasal spray will also be dispensed to priority groups that include DeKalb County Board of Health clinical and DeKalb County Government Public Safety staff.

The DeKalb County Board of Health received its first shipment of 4,000 doses of the H1N1 live nasal spray on Monday, October 5.

According to S. Elizabeth Ford, M.D., M.B.A., District Health Director of the DeKalb County Board of Health, "Due to our limited supply, we are focused on reaching priority groups with this first vaccine shipment. However, we anticipate that when more vaccine arrives, including the inactivated injectable form, we will expand our H1N1 vaccination program to include the remainder of the county." said Dr. Ford.

The Board of Health will provide the vaccine at no charge to patients. However, an administrative fee may be charged through Medicare, Medicaid, and all third party insurance including State Health Benefit plans for United Health Care and Cigna. Persons are asked to bring their insurance cards at the time of service. Service is based on a first come, first serve basis until the current vaccine supply is depleted.

DeKalb County Board of Health

445 Winn Way – Box 987

Decatur, GA 30031

404.294.3700 • www.dekalbhealth.net

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The 2009 H1N1 vaccine will not protect you from the seasonal flu. People should get both kinds of flu vaccine to protect themselves from getting sick this season. You cannot get the flu by taking this vaccine. The nasal spray sometimes produces mild side effects. The most common side effects are runny nose, wheezing, sore throat, nasal congestion, and fever. These are rare and less severe than any problems created by actually having the flu.

The nasal spray should not be given to the following:

- Children that are younger than 2 years old,
- Children with asthma or children less than 4 years old with recurrent wheezing,
- Children who are receiving treatments containing aspirin,
- Children with sensitivity to eggs, egg proteins, gentamicin, gelatin, or arginine or have had life-threatening reactions to previous influenza vaccinations,
- Children who have a muscle, nerve, or seizure disorder that could lead to breathing or swallowing problems, and
- Children who have a weakened immune system.

Walk-in service is available at all Board of Health centers, Monday through Friday between 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Please call the DeKalb County Board of Health for specific information about vaccine locations at 404-294-3700 or visit www.dekalbhealth.net.

Dr. Ford is available for media interviews on Wednesday, Oct., 7 only between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. only. Please call if you would like to schedule an on-air interview.

(404) 294-3829.

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