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## **H1N1 (Swine Flu) Public Vaccination Clinics to Open November 2**

The Okaloosa County Health Department announced that the H1N1 (Swine Flu) vaccine will be available at nearly forty public vaccination clinics from date to date throughout the community in an effort to keep Okaloosa County residents healthy.

Beginning Monday, November 2, the first two H1N1 (Swine Flu) public vaccination clinics will be held at the Fort Walton Beach YMCA and at the Niceville Community Center. The hours of operation for these clinics are from 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. There is no charge for the vaccine at any of the public clinics. H1N1 vaccine will also be available in Okaloosa County at many doctors' offices including pediatricians, obstetricians, family medicine physicians, internists, and military medical facilities. Call your primary care provider or military clinic to see if they are participating in the H1N1 vaccination program.

The H1N1 (Swine Flu) vaccine comes in two different formulations. The "flu shot" is an inactive vaccine given with a needle. This formula is approved for use in pregnant women, and for people 6 months of age and older. The other formulation of the H1N1 vaccine is the nasal spray vaccine (also called "LAIV," ) which is made with live weakened viruses that do not cause the flu. The people eligible to get the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine are healthy individuals ages 2 to 49 years, who are not pregnant. Both the H1N1 flu shot and the H1N1 nasal spray vaccines are being made the same way as the seasonal vaccines are made.

Dr. Karen Chapman, M.D., Director of the Okaloosa County Health Department, reminds residents that the vaccine will initially be distributed to populations with the greatest risk of developing H1N1 (Swine Flu).

These high-risk populations include:

- pregnant women,
- children and young adults, ages 6 months through 24 years,
- emergency and healthcare personnel,
- caretakers of children less than 6 months old,
- individuals ages 25-64 with chronic health conditions (like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, etc.)

If you are in one of these populations and think you have already had H1N1, the vaccine is still recommended. The H1N1 vaccine is not mandatory, but highly advised to the high-risk groups.

There has been very little H1N1 (Swine Flu) illness in people 65 and older since the 2009 H1N1 virus emerged. Studies show that younger people are 15 to 20 times more likely to get sick with the H1N1 virus. While people 65 and older are not included in the groups recommended to get the earliest doses of vaccine, they can get the H1N1 vaccine as soon as the high-risk populations have had the opportunity to be vaccinated.

H1N1 public vaccination clinics will be open in various locations throughout Okaloosa County, Monday through Thursday, and on Saturdays, through December 5. For more information and to obtain a clinic schedule, go to [www.healthyokaloosa.com](http://www.healthyokaloosa.com). From there, click on the “H1N1 Vaccination Clinics.” The entire clinic schedule can be viewed at once, or searches can be performed by city, location, date, etc. This website also provides Consent and Notice of Privacy Forms, as well as Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) that can be read, printed, completed, and brought to the vaccination clinics in order to expedite visits.

If you are sick or worried a loved one might have H1N1 (Swine Flu,) call your primary physician. In addition, you can visit [www.healthyokaloosa.com](http://www.healthyokaloosa.com), and click the “Could I Have the H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)” link. This webpage should not be used as a substitute for evaluation and treatment by a healthcare professional, however it offers pertinent information to indicative symptoms that accompany H1N1 (Swine Flu).

Additional questions about the H1N1 public vaccination clinics can be directed to Eileen Seaman, 833-9240 X 2114.

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*Dr. Karen Chapman, M.D.,  
Director at the Okaloosa  
County Health Department,  
receives an H1N1  
vaccination*



*Elaine Bieber, Okaloosa County's H1N1 Mass  
Vaccination Operations Section Chief, gets  
her H1N1 flu shot*



*Lisa Apple, RN at the  
Okaloosa County Health  
Department gets an intranasal  
H1N1 vaccine, administered by  
fellow RN, Phoebe Dunn*