

Seasonal Flu Vaccine and H1N1 Flu Vaccine Update 10.6.09

Like most providers across the country, the Health Center has experienced delays in receiving our seasonal flu vaccine. We are working hard to source it, though there are delays nationwide as flu vaccine manufacturers have focused on the production and shipping of H1N1 to state health departments. The Vermont Department of Health issued a press release on 10.05.09 regarding the delay in seasonal flu vaccine delivery (<http://healthvermont.gov/news/2009/100509fluvaccine.aspx>).

We are working with the Vermont Department of Health on sourcing our H1N1 vaccine and expect to receive shipments from them along with the rest of the country.

The Health Center will try to have both H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccine available to all students who wish to receive it. If vaccine is in short supply, the Health Center will prioritize vaccinating students who are considered at high risk for complications from either seasonal or H1N1 influenza infections. The following email was sent to students:

Dear Middlebury College Students,

1. Some students are at high risk for complications from seasonal and H1N1 flu, and they should receive vaccine first.
2. If you are a high risk student* and would like to be notified when the Health Center receives vaccine, please call 802-443-5135 (x5135) and provide your:
 - a. Name
 - b. Middlebury College ID number
 - c. Preferred contact information (either cell phone or email)
 - d. The medical condition placing you at high risk.
3. A list of high-risk students will be kept at the Health Center, and students on that list will be notified as soon as seasonal and H1N1 vaccine arrives.
4. The Health Center is working hard on getting vaccine for seasonal flu.
 - a. There have been delays as suppliers have focused on shipping H1N1 to the government over seasonal flu vaccine.
5. We plan to hold vaccine clinics for both H1N1flu and seasonal flu as soon as we get vaccine.

*Students considered at high risk for influenza (seasonal and H1N1) complications include:

1. pregnant women
2. students with chronic lung, heart, liver, blood, neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders
3. students who have immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by HIV)
4. students less than 18 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and who might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection

In addition to the above groups, the following groups are advised to receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine when it first becomes available:

1. college aged students
2. people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, and
3. healthcare and emergency medical services personnel

Please see the following web sites for more information about seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccines:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/index.htm>

<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/QuestionsaboutVaccines/ucm182335.htm>