

# H1N1 Vaccination, Round Two

Harrison County Home and Public Health reminds residents that children ages 6 months through 9 years are recommended to receive 2 doses of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that the two doses of the vaccine be separated by 28 days (4 weeks); that means for many children, it is time to administer their second dose.

“The first dose of the vaccine basically ‘primes’ the child’s immune system to receive the second dose,” said BJ Abrams. “The second dose is the one that provides full protection against the H1N1 virus for children ages 6 months through 9 years.”

In Harrison County, the H1N1 vaccine remains targeted to those at highest risk of becoming ill and developing complications from the virus. These groups include:

- Pregnant women
- Person who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months (e.g. parents, siblings, and daycare providers)
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious material
- Children and young adults aged 6 months – 24 years, and
- Adults aged 25-64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications

The focus on H1N1 vaccinations this year should also serve as a reminder for parents to check their children’s overall vaccination status, as well as their own, to ensure they are up-to-date. Recommended immunization schedules for children and adults can be found at [www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp). You may also call Harrison County Home and Public Health at 712-644-2220 for information about recommended and required vaccinations.

Influenza infections can make people more likely to develop bacterial pneumonia. Pneumonia infections are a serious complication of seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza infections and can cause death. There is a vaccine to protect high-risk individuals against serious pneumococcal disease. The vaccine is safe and effective. Most people need a single dose of the pneumococcal vaccine in a lifetime. This vaccine is recommended for people who are 65 years of age and older; residents of nursing homes or long-term care facilities; people 2 years of age and older with a weakened immune system; and people 2 years of age and older who have a chronic illness, such as lung disease or diabetes.

A statewide toll-free hotline has been established for public questions about seasonal and H1N1 influenza at 1-800-447-1985. More information can also be found at [www.idph.state.ia.us](http://www.idph.state.ia.us) or at our website at [www.harrisoncountyyia.org/publichealth/index.html](http://www.harrisoncountyyia.org/publichealth/index.html).

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