



CITY OF PEABODY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

24 Lowell Street
Peabody, Massachusetts 01960
(978) 538-5926
Fax: (978) 538-5990

BOARD OF HEALTH
JOHN J. BARRY III, CHAIRMAN
STEPHEN S. KALIVAS, R.Ph.
EUGENE F. SMITH, M.D.

SHARON CAMERON
DIRECTOR

November 10, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may have heard, a new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, and many children have been affected. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. **At this time, the Peabody Health Department has a limited quantity of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine and will be prioritizing it for elementary-aged children.**

The first scheduled clinic for **elementary-aged children** is scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2009. It will be held from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at the Torigian Community Life Center at 79 Central Street, Peabody. The clinic is for Peabody children in grades kindergarten through grade 5. **Children MUST be accompanied by parents/guardians.** No one will be admitted to the clinic prior to 10 am. There is no fee for the vaccine, but proof of Peabody residency will be required.

Unfortunately, supply is limited at this time and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. **Reservations WILL NOT be accepted.** Other household members will not be eligible to receive vaccine at this time, unless they also fall into this priority group.

We do expect to receive more vaccine and plan to hold additional clinics throughout the fall and winter.

If you have any questions about the vaccination clinic, please call the Peabody Health Department's Flu Information Line at 978-538-5758. Please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> as well as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's website at www.mass.gov/flu for more information especially for parents. Your child's health care provider also can answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and may be able to give your child the seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccines as well.

We would like to remind you and your child to continue to wash hands, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home from school if sick. Please visit http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/cdc/flu/swine_factsheet_parents.pdf for more information on important prevention measures that you can take to help keep your family healthy. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharon Cameron
Director of Health and Human Services
City of Peabody