

Swine Flu Update as of 10-7-09:

Swine flu epidemic status:

The Southeastern region of the United States has been hardest hit this season and the swine flu is expected to be moving up north within the next several weeks.

The clinical severity of cases have been mild (similar to seasonal flu). The main difference between Swine and seasonal flu is the predominant number of cases in the pediatric population.

Swine Flu Testing:

Rapid flu testing is still **not** recommended due to the poor sensitivity of the test (i.e. 50% of tests could be false negatives).

Flu testing will be done for hospitalized patients, hospital employees (to prevent possible spread to patients), and clusters of cases (to be determined by the Dept. of Public Health). Swine flu is still susceptible to Tamiflu, however, overuse will increase the risk of developing resistance to the medication.

Swine Flu Vaccine Status:

The most current priority order of administration of the H1N1 vaccine will be

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|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.) Health care workers | 2.) Pregnant women | 3.) Contacts of infants <6 mo |
| 4.) 2-4 year old children | 5.) 6mo-24 year olds | 6.) General Public |

Nasal Flu Vaccine (live viral vaccine):

Starting in early October, limited supplies of intranasal (flumist) vaccine will become available via the Dept. of Public Health. As with the seasonal flu mist, there are restrictions on who can receive the vaccine.

As more doses are released to municipalities, there will be expansion of groups eligible to receive vaccine. ***Please see our Swine Flu Fact sheet for more information on risk groups and Swine Flu information.***

Injectable (killed vaccine):

The release date for Swine Flu Shots **has not** been determined. Three manufacturers are producing the vaccine and each is targeting different age groups for which their vaccine can be used. Some of the vaccines will contain Thimerosal (mercury based preservative).

Cost of Vaccine:

The vaccine will be administered free of charge through the Dept. of Public Health.

Locations:

When there is sufficient vaccine supply to administer to large numbers of people, the Dept. of Public Health will run mass vaccine clinics at public venues (i.e. Palace Theater, Tully Center, UConn Campus, Yerwood Center).

Residency Status:

Anyone can come to Stamford to receive vaccine when it is opened to the public. It will not be limited to the city of your residence.

Stamford Pediatric Associates will not be administering Swine Flu Vaccine at this time.

The Department of Health will be managing the distribution and decisions of who will receive vaccine.

The Department of Health will regularly update its web site with information about vaccine availability and eligibility.

To get to the DPH link:

www.cityofstamford.org

Highlight the “Government” tab

Chose “Department Listing”

Chose “Public Safety, Health and Welfare”

Then, on the left you will see “Health and Social Services”

Stamford Pediatrics is committed to providing you with the most up to date information regarding Seasonal and Swine Flu. Thank you for reading our updates.