



**\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\***

The information in this packet is specific for: **Binghamton City School District**.  
If your child attends a different district do not utilize this material.

Dear Binghamton School District Parent/Guardian:

Your school district will be hosting an H1N1 vaccination clinic. The clinic is part of the Broome County Health Department's county-wide H1N1 vaccination campaign that will begin this fall. The campaign is expected to run through the end of January. The goal of the campaign is to protect your children against the 2009 Pandemic Influenza and reduce the burden of illness on the school community.

Your school district has elected for the Health Department to conduct these clinics **during the school day**. Unfortunately, due to the limited amount of vaccine available and unpredictable delivery times we are **unable** to provide a precise date/time for this clinic at this time.

We have included all the material necessary for you to review and approve vaccination for your child in this packet (see details below). Please review the material and return the consent form to your child's school as soon as possible. **Your child will not be vaccinated without your expressed, signed consent.**

As soon as we are able to confirm the date for your school district we will make that information available as quickly, widely, and with as much advanced notice as possible (e.g. notification to school district, posting on our website, and through the media).

**The following information is provided for you in this 2009 Pandemic Influenza Vaccination Information Packet:**

- Medical Screening Questionnaire & Consent Form – Please complete and return the entire form. If you require assistance completing the form, please contact us using the information below. **This form should be returned to your child's school.**
- Vaccine Information Statement (VIS): "What You Need to Know" – Provides you information about the injectable (SHOT) form of the vaccine. The nasal spray form of the vaccine will not be offered during this clinic.

**Information Highlights**

- The vaccine that will be administered is to protect your child against 2009 Novel H1N1 Pandemic Influenza. Your child should still receive a seasonal flu shot.
- The vaccine has been licensed by the Food and Drug Administration, does **not** contain adjuvant (an immune system booster), and has undergone clinical trials.
- Individuals ages 10 and older will only require **one** dose of the vaccine.
- Children age 9 and younger will require **two** doses of the vaccine spaced approximately 4 weeks apart. We will return to your child's school in that approximate timeframe to provide the second dose.

Note: If you consent to your child being vaccinated but have them vaccinated by their healthcare provider before we conduct the clinic please notify the school so that your consent form can be discarded.

**Where to Get Additional Information**

- On the Web: <http://www.gobroomecounty.com/hd/flu>
- By E-mail: [FLU@co.broome.ny.us](mailto:FLU@co.broome.ny.us)
- By Phone: 607-778-3331

# Broome County Health Department

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## 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Vaccination Screening Questionnaire & Consent to Receive Vaccination SCHOOL-LOCATED CLINIC

PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU HAVE OR WILL BE HAVING YOUR CHILD VACCINATED BY THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.  
 (If you checked the box, only fill in your child's name and return form to his/her school – your child will not be vaccinated.)

### Step 1 – Demographics

Child's Name (PLEASE PRINT)							
Child's Date of Birth	Age		Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Child's Street Address	Phone No.		(    )	-			
City, State, Zip	Alternate Phone No.		(    )	-			
Mother's Maiden Name (OPTIONAL)							

### Step 2 – Eligibility to Receive Vaccine

	Yes	No
Is your child between 6 months and 24 years of age?		

### Step 3 – Possible Contraindications (reasons your child may not be able to get the vaccine)

	Yes	No
Has your child ever had a serious reaction to the flu nasal spray or the flu shot?		
Does your child have a severe allergy to eggs, a component of the vaccine, or to latex?		
Does your child have any other known food or drug allergies? If yes, please list:		
Has your child ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome?		

### Step 4 - Influenza Consent

I have read, or had explained to me, the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) about the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Vaccination. I have had a chance to ask questions which were answered to my satisfaction and I understand the benefits and risks of the vaccination as described. I request that the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Vaccination be given to my child. If my child is 9 years of age or younger, I understand that he/she requires two separate doses, and I authorize the Broome County Health Department to administer each required dose at least 4 weeks apart. I agree to provide a copy of the vaccination certificate to my child's physician.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

# 2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINE

## INACTIVATED (the “flu shot”)

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis).

#### 1 What is 2009 H1N1 influenza?

2009 H1N1 influenza (also called Swine Flu) is caused by a new strain of influenza virus. It has spread to many countries.

Like other flu viruses, 2009 H1N1 spreads from person to person through coughing, sneezing, and sometimes through touching objects contaminated with the virus.

Signs of 2009 H1N1 can include:

- Fatigue
- Fever
- Sore Throat
- Muscle Aches
- Chills
- Coughing
- Sneezing

Some people also have diarrhea and vomiting.

Most people feel better within a week. But some people get pneumonia or other serious illnesses. Some people have to be hospitalized and some die.

#### 2 How is 2009 H1N1 different from regular (seasonal) flu?

Seasonal flu viruses change from year to year, but they are closely related to each other.

People who have had flu infections in the past usually have some immunity to seasonal flu viruses (their bodies have built up some ability to fight off the viruses).

The 2009 H1N1 flu is a new flu virus. It is very different from seasonal flu viruses.

Most people have little or no immunity to 2009 H1N1 flu (their bodies are not prepared to fight off the virus).

#### 3 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine

Vaccines are available to protect against 2009 H1N1 influenza.

- These vaccines are made just like seasonal flu vaccines.
- They are expected to be as safe and effective as seasonal flu vaccines.
- They will not prevent “influenza-like” illnesses caused by other viruses.
- They will not prevent seasonal flu. *You should also get seasonal influenza vaccine, if you want to be protected against seasonal flu.*

**Inactivated** vaccine (vaccine that has killed virus in it) is injected into the muscle, like the annual flu shot. **This sheet describes the inactivated vaccine.**

A **live, intranasal** vaccine (the nasal spray vaccine) is also available. It is described in a separate sheet.

Some inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine contains a preservative called thimerosal to keep it free from germs. Some people have suggested that thimerosal might be related to autism. In 2004 a group of experts at the Institute of Medicine reviewed many studies looking into this theory, and found no association between thimerosal and autism. Additional studies since then reached the same conclusion.

#### 4 Who should get 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine and when?

##### WHO

Groups recommended to receive 2009 H1N1 vaccine first are:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical personnel
- Anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Anyone from 25 through 64 years of age with certain chronic medical conditions or a weakened immune system

As more vaccine becomes available, these groups should also be vaccinated:

- Healthy 25 through 64 year olds
- Adults 65 years and older

The Federal government is providing this vaccine for receipt on a voluntary basis. However, state law or employers may require vaccination for certain persons.

##### WHEN

Get vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available.

Children through 9 years of age should get **two doses** of vaccine, about a month apart. Older children and adults need only one dose.

## 5 Some people should not get the vaccine or should wait

You should not get 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine if you have a **severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs**, or to **any other substance in the vaccine**. *Tell the person giving you the vaccine if you have any severe allergies.*

Also tell them if you have ever had:

- a life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of seasonal flu vaccine,
- Guillain Barré Syndrome (a severe paralytic illness also called GBS).

These may not be reasons to avoid the vaccine, but the medical staff can help you decide.

If you are moderately or severely ill, you might be advised to wait until you recover before getting the vaccine. If you have a mild cold or other illness, there is usually no need to wait.

Pregnant or breastfeeding women can get inactivated 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine.

Inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines, including seasonal influenza vaccine.

## 6 What are the risks from 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine?

A vaccine, like any medicine, could cause a serious problem, such as a severe allergic reaction. But the risk of any vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

The virus in inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine has been killed, so you cannot get influenza from the vaccine.

The risks from inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine are similar to those from seasonal inactivated flu vaccine:

### Mild problems:

- soreness, redness, tenderness, or swelling where the shot was given
- fainting (mainly adolescents)
- headache, muscle aches
- fever
- nausea

If these problems occur, they usually begin soon after the shot and last 1-2 days.

### Severe problems:

- Life-threatening allergic reactions to vaccines are very rare. If they do occur, it is usually within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot.
- In 1976, an earlier type of swine flu vaccine was associated with cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS). Since then, flu vaccines have not been clearly linked to GBS.

## 7 What if there is a severe reaction?

### What should I look for?

Any unusual condition, such as a high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

### What should I do?

- **Call** a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- **Tell** the doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
- **Ask** your provider to report the reaction by filing a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form. Or you can file this report through the VAERS website at [www.vaers.hhs.gov](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov), or by calling **1-800-822-7967**.

*VAERS does not provide medical advice.*

## 8 Vaccine injury compensation

If you or your child has a reaction to the vaccine, your ability to sue is limited by law.

However, a federal program has been created to help pay for the medical care and other specific expenses of certain persons who have a serious reaction to this vaccine. For more information about this program, call **1-888-275-4772** or visit the program's website at: [www.hrsa.gov/countermeasurescomp/default.htm](http://www.hrsa.gov/countermeasurescomp/default.htm).

## 9 How can I learn more?

- Ask your provider. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
  - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)** or
  - Visit CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu) or [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)
- Visit the web at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)



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