



KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE H1N1 SWINE FLU

NEWS RELEASE

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Under 10? First H1N1 Vaccination Before November 1? Time for Your Second Shot, Says St. Lucie County Health Department

If you have a child under 10 who received his/her first H1N1 vaccination before November 1st, it's time for a second vaccination to ensure maximum protection from the virus. Most adults and children 10 years and older have very likely encountered numerous flu strains and develop good immunity after their first H1N1 flu vaccination. However, children under 10 need a booster shot 21 to 28 days after their first vaccination in order to develop a strong immune response.

"Children under 10 do not have fully developed immune systems," explained Karlette Peck, St. Lucie County Health Department Epidemiologist. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases H1N1 clinical studies have shown that children 9 years and younger require a booster shot in order to develop a robust immune response.

- Among the youngest children (6 to 35 months), 100% had a robust immune response after the second dose compared with only 25% three weeks after the first dose.
- In children aged 3 through 9 years old, 94% had a robust response after the second dose compared with only 55% three weeks after the first dose.

The next St. Lucie County Health Department vaccination station will be held this Saturday, November 21st, at the St. Lucie County Logistics Center located at 3855 S. U.S. 1 in Fort Pierce. Vaccinations will start at 8 a.m. and run until 4 p.m.

"If you vaccinated a child under 10 at our October 24th vaccination station, bring him or her back for their second free vaccination this Saturday," said Larry Lee, St. Lucie County Health Department Administrator. "Remember, though, that vaccination supplies are becoming more plentiful, so there is no need to camp out overnight."

At the county's last vaccination station, held November 7th, the St. Lucie County Health Department still had vaccine available when the station closed.

Children under 10 who received their first H1N1 vaccination at the County's November 7th vaccination station should return on December 5th for their second vaccination during the County's fourth vaccination station, also at the St. Lucie County Logistics Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, visit www.stluciecountyhealth.com or call 1-877-FLA-FLU1.