

2009-11-19

Subject: Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine for Children

Attention parents / guardians:

On November 13, 2009, the Public Health Agency of Canada issued an update regarding H1N1 flu vaccine dosing recommendations for children.

Here are the recommendations for the different age groups:

CATEGORY	DOSING RECOMMENDATION
Infants from birth to less than 6 months	H1N1 flu vaccine not authorized for use
Children over 6 months and less than 3 years of age	2 doses of vaccine There should be a minimum of 21 days between the 2 doses.
Healthy children age 3 to 9 years	1 dose vaccine, for now**
Children age 3 to 9 years with chronic medical conditions	2 doses of vaccine There should be a minimum of 21 days between the 2 doses.

** These recommendations may be updated as more information becomes available.

Source: Public Health Agency - Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine: Dosing Recommendations (November 2009)
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/h1n1/vacc/recommendation-recommandation-fra.php>

Due to new recommendations issued by the Medical Health Officer of New Brunswick, most children age three to nine do not need to return to a clinic for a second dose of the influenza A (H1N1) vaccine. Please note that we will not be returning in the schools to administer the second dose of the H1N1 flu vaccine.

The Medical Health Officer continues to recommend administration of a second dose for children age six months to three years, as well as children age three to nine years with one of the following chronic diseases:

- cardiac or pulmonary disorders (including bronchopulmonary dysplasia, cystic fibrosis and asthma);
- diabetes mellitus or other metabolic diseases;
- cancer, immunodeficiency, immunosuppression (due to underlying disease or treatment);
- kidney disease;
- blood disorders (anemia or hemoglobinopathy);
- liver disease;
- neurological disorders.

<http://www.gnb.ca/public/english/2009-0103e.htm>

Starting the week of November 23, children requiring a second dose will be invited to attend a Public Health clinic. To obtain the most recent list of H1N1 flu vaccination clinics, log on to (www.gnb.ca/grippe) or call toll free at 1-800-580-0038.

Sincerely,

Violette Benahmed
Director of Public Health – RHA A

cc: Diane Levasseur, Public Health Assistant Director
Claire Dennie, Vice-President of Community Health Services –RHA A