

Public Mass Vaccination Clinics (MVC) – Volunteers Needed

Current Situation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that in recent weeks, approximately 99% of all subtyped Influenza A viruses being reported are 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) viruses, which are continuing to increase. In Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) is reporting influenza-like illnesses at a widespread level. PA DOH, through the Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP), the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS) and the six local health district offices, continues to prepare for influenza response operations which focus on coordinating and conducting mass vaccination clinics for the 2009 H1N1 virus in order to help control this public health emergency.

Mass Vaccination Clinics

Public mass vaccination clinics will be held to provide the 2009 H1N1 vaccine to individuals in priority groups that cannot access the vaccine from their school, work, or healthcare provider. The MVCs may also provide vaccines to individuals when the vaccine recommendation no longer limits or prioritizes persons to be vaccinated. As part of its preparedness efforts, the PA DOH is searching for volunteers that can provide assistance for the mass vaccination clinics during this public health emergency.

Volunteers Needed

Mass vaccination clinics will require volunteers who have medical and non-medical skills to help augment public health staff.

Medically trained personnel will be needed to act as vaccine administrators and onsite medical staff. These volunteers may include retired (but still licensed) practitioners, specially-trained and certified paramedics, nurses, physician assistants, certified pharmacists and medical or nursing students working in conjunction with their institutional faculty or medical director.

Non-medical personnel will be needed to provide administrative and logistics support, including site security and traffic control, intake and registration, maintenance, and line management at each clinic. These positions may be staffed by any volunteer with the understanding they will receive a short briefing prior to each shift on their roles and responsibilities.

How to Volunteer

Individuals interested in helping the community during this public health emergency can register on the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Pennsylvania (SERVPA) secure website at www.serv.pa.gov. This process should take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. By enrolling with SERVPA, volunteers that are deployed to assist in the mass vaccination clinics are afforded certain protections from civil liability and/or reimbursement for workers' compensation under PA Code Title 4 Chapter 115. Additionally, civil liability protections are offered under other state and federal laws.

Additional Information

Because the number of doses and the demand for vaccination are unknown at this time, specific dates and locations of the mass vaccination clinics are not yet finalized. The mass vaccination clinics are expected to start around mid-November in all Pennsylvania counties. Once volunteers register with SERVPA, they will be provided updates on the locations and dates of the clinics. PA DOH will also work with individuals on finding suitable dates and locations in order to ensure that their efforts are utilized.

Contact: PA DOH Southwest District Office – (412) 565-5101