

Richmond Does its Part to Thwart H1N1 with Emergency Preparedness Plan Operation

In an effort to prevent more flu in Rhode Island, Richmond, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH), will be running a vaccination clinic on January 18th from 10a-1p at the Richmond Elementary School. Everyone aged six months and older can receive a flu shot at this event.

The strain of flu that is most prominent this year is H1N1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have observed that this strain is disproportionately impacting children, young adults, and middle-aged adults this year.

In addition to influenza vaccinations, Richmond's clinic will offer vaccinations against pertussis (whooping cough), and pneumonia. There is no cost for any of the vaccinations and health insurance is not a requirement. Anyone who is insured should bring his or her insurance card.

This vaccination clinic provides an opportunity for the municipality to test its emergency preparedness plans. Richmond's emergency responders have spent several years planning for and practicing dispensing medications to the public. These events help prepare Richmond for larger-scale emergencies that would call for the entire public to be provided life-saving services or medications.

Tdap and Pneumococcal Vaccine

- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine prevents pertussis, a contagious disease that can cause illness and sometimes death, especially in infants. Everyone over the age of 11 should receive this vaccine at least once in their lifetime. Anyone who is in close contact with an infant should get a Tdap shot. Additionally, a booster dose of Tdap is required for students before they enter seventh grade. Students who participate in the clinic will meet a vaccination requirement for seventh grade enrollment. Pregnant women must be at least 20 weeks into their pregnancy to receive Tdap vaccine.
- Pneumococcal vaccine prevents pneumonia. The vaccine is recommended for adults aged 19 and older who smoke and those with asthma, and for all people ages 65 and older.

For a full list of vaccination clinics near you, visit www.health.ri.gov or call the HEALTH Information Line at 401-222-5960 / RI Relay 711. In addition to being vaccinated at community clinics, children can be vaccinated at doctors' offices. Adults can be vaccinated at community clinics, doctors' offices, and pharmacies.