



**NIAGARA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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Niagara County will conduct its first H1N1 school immunization clinic this season at Starpoint High School on Saturday, November 21, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Nurses, doctors and pharmacists will vaccinate over 2,500 individuals. In accordance with CDC guidelines, clinic staff will vaccinate only district students, their household members and Starpoint District residents who fall within the target risk groups. Target groups include:

- pregnant women
- individuals 6 months to 24 years of age
- household members of infants less than 6 months of age

In an effort to manage limited parking and control the flow of large groups of people, the Starpoint School District Administration has scheduled district students and their family members who pre-registered, into specific timeslots. People without appointments who meet district residency criteria, and who fall within the target groups should arrive between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Over 70,000 children in Niagara County are between the ages of 0 and 24. Of these, nearly 9,000 are uninsured and 3,600 are underinsured. Ideally, children should be able to receive their vaccinations in their physicians' offices. By conducting mass flu clinics in schools, the Niagara County Department of Health will be able to capture this population of disadvantaged children that would otherwise have no opportunity for vaccination against H1N1 and seasonal flu.

Schools are vital partners in the operation of mass vaccination Points of Dispensing (PODs). Their partnerships are valuable in helping the Niagara County Department of Health to reach and protect those individuals who fall into the target risk groups. Schools are ideal locations for conducting PODs because of their accessibility and the central role they play in community activities and events. Schools are clean, safe and familiar places.

All district Superintendents have been invited to join the Niagara County Department of Health in the operations of school PODs to protect their district communities. Many district Superintendents are in discussion with the Health Department to prepare their school communities for this important Public Health initiative. Several Superintendents and representatives from other school districts will be present at the Starpoint POD to observe operations and have their questions answered prior to scheduling their own PODs.

**PUBLIC HEALTH: PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.**