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The Miami-Dade County Health Department would like to provide you with information regarding the 2009 H1N1 Influenza "Flu" vaccination. The H1N1 influenza (sometimes called Swine Flu) is caused by a new strain of influenza virus and is very different from the seasonal flu virus. Like other flu viruses, 2009 H1N1 spreads from person to person through coughing, sneezing and sometimes through touching objects contaminated with the virus. Most people feel better within a week; however, some have been diagnosed with pneumonia or other serious illnesses. Children 6 months through 24 years of age are a priority group for this vaccine. Caregivers and family members of children less than 6 months of age are also recommended to get the vaccine so that young infants are protected since they are not candidates for the vaccine. It is important that all early care and education workers have an opportunity to be vaccinated. The H1N1 vaccination is free of charge.

You should not take the H1N1 LAIV if you have severe allergies to eggs or any other substance in the vaccine.

H1N1 LAIV should not be given to: children younger than 2 and adults over 50; pregnant women; anyone with a weakened immune system; anyone with long term health problems such as heart, lung, kidney or liver disease, metabolic disease such as diabetes, asthma, anemia or other blood disorders; children under 5 with asthma or wheezing during the past year; anyone with certain muscle or nerve disorders (such as cerebral palsy) that can lead to breathing and swallowing problems; anyone in close contact with a person with a severely weakened immune system; or children or adolescents on long-term aspirin treatment.

If you are moderately or severely ill, you might be advised to wait until you recover before receiving the vaccine.

Tell the person administering the vaccine if you have ever had: a life threatening allergic reaction after a dose of seasonal flu vaccine or Guillain-Barre' syndrome (a severe paralytic illness also called GBS). These may not be reasons to avoid the vaccine but the medical staff will help you decide.

The 2009 H1N1 LAIV may be given at the same time as most other vaccines. Tell the person administering the vaccine of any other vaccines that you may have received with the past month or plan on receiving within the next month. H1N1 LAIV and seasonal LAIV should not be given together.

With that in mind, the Department of Health will offer a limited number of the H1N1 vaccinations free of charge on October 20th at the South Dade Regional Library\* and October 21 at the Martin Luther King Office Plaza\*\* to early care and education staff, during the Miami-Dade County Provider Business Meetings. There are two forms of H1N1 vaccine available. One is an H1N1LAIV flu nasal spray which is inhaled, the other is an H1N1 flu shot which is injected in the arm. Due to time constraints, the Department will only administer 120 vaccinations per day from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm each day, by appointment only.

If you and your staff are interested in receiving a vaccination, please visit the [ELC website](#) to download the H1N1 Flu Vaccine Appointment Form and fax the name of your center, the names of those on your staff who wish to be vaccinated, your telephone number(s) and whether you prefer October 20 at the South Dade Library\* or October 21 at the Martin Luther King building\*\* to 305-477-1608. The first 120 names for each location will be accepted and you will be contacted, no later than Monday October 19, with the time of your appointment.

\* October 20, 2009 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm South Dade Regional Library- 10750 SW 211th Street, Auditorium- Second Floor.

\*\* October 21, 2009 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm- Martin Luther King Office Plaza- 2525 NW 62 Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Note: If you are unable to receive a vaccination on either of these days, the Department of Health will provide a complete listing of times and locations throughout Miami-Dade County where you can receive your vaccine free of charge.

**Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe**  
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