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Public Information Release

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Time for Booster Doses

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Children under the age of 10 need to have a booster dose of the H1N1 vaccine approximately four weeks after having the first dose in order to have better protection against the H1N1 virus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, after a single dose of vaccine, only 55 percent of children ages 3 to 9 developed enough immune response within 21 days to protect them fully against the H1N1 flu. After a second dose, 94 percent were protected.

Among the youngest children, those ages 6 months to 35 months, only 25 percent posted a strong enough response after just one dose.

Children who received their first dose on or before November 10th can now get their second dose of vaccine at the next set of clinics. These next clinics will be held December 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the old Steve and Barry's Store at the Miami Valley Centre Mall in Piqua. Vaccines are also available at most pediatricians' offices in Miami and surrounding counties. The vaccine supply is plentiful.

If the time passed between the first vaccine administration is greater than 28 days, that is OK, too. Some protection is better than none and the time factor beyond the four weeks is not critical. The child will not lose the protection afforded by the first dose.

The clinics are still open to people in the priority groups who have not yet been vaccinated. Priority groups include pregnant mothers, people who care for infants under the age of six months, all children between the ages of 6 months and 24 years of age, and person age 25 to 64 with specific underlying medical conditions, and healthcare workers.

At this point in time, it is still unknown when the clinics will be open to people outside the priority groups. That decision is up to the Ohio Department of Health. As of this time they have no known plan as to when that will happen.

Vaccinations at all public health clinics are free.

Always check the website for the latest updates. www.miamicountyhealth.net