

Flu Vaccine News for 2010!!!!

Starting Wednesday September 1, 2010, you may contact the office during regular business hours to schedule an appointment for one of our fall flu clinics. Remember these clinics are to see the nurse only for the vaccination. You will not see one of our doctors during this time.

Flu clinics will be offered at various times in the fall and will include Saturday morning appointments.

We will be offering 2 influenza (flu) products this season and both products will contain the Influenza A H1N1 strain that was used in a separate vaccine last winter. [This means your child does not need one seasonal flu vaccine and one for H1N1 flu like last winter]

1. Injectable influenza (Sanofi Pastuer) for children > 6 months of age
2. Flumist nasal spray (Medimmune) for children 2 years and age or older. Flumist is not intended for children with immunocompromised states (cancer, arthritis, immune deficiencies), diabetes or active asthmatics that take daily controller medicines. Flumist is a live but weakened vaccine that is very effective and very safe provided your child does not have the above mentioned health problems. All of our physicians support the use of Flumist for healthy children.

The choice of flu product is yours and you will be able to schedule the vaccine you would like for your individual child as long as supplies are available. If you are unsure if flu vaccine is covered by your health insurance, please contact the insurance company directly to inquire.

All children > 6 months are recommended to receive yearly influenza vaccination and all of our physicians believe this is an excellent way to promote the continued health of our patients.

If your child is scheduled to visit our office for a routine well child exam in the fall of 2010, he/she may receive their flu shot at that visit. However, we cannot guarantee product at these well checks late in the season. We would encourage you to strongly consider scheduling a separate appointment for flu vaccine to ensure availability of vaccine for your child.

Lastly, every flu season offers unique challenges to our office and staff. Vaccine supply, shipping and availability are beyond our control. At Pediatrics of Northeastern Pennsylvania, we strive to provide quality care at all times and are sensitive to your busy schedules. We hope this information is helpful as we plan to keep all of our kids healthy this winter!!