

H1N1 Vaccine PODs (Points of Distribution) for Saratoga County Emergency Responders

[Revised notice October 29, 2009]

Dates and locations:

Date*	Time*	Location	Point Contact
Nov. 10 (Tues)	4-8 pm	Moreau EMS 1583 Rte. 9, Ft. Edward 12828	Andre Delvaux lavie908@yahoo.com
Nov. 17 (Tues)	4-8 pm	Clifton Park-Halfmoon Ambulance 15 Crossings Blvd, Clifton Park 12065	George June cphm-chief@nycap.rr.com
Nov. 19 (Thurs)	4-8 pm	Community Emergency Corps 78 Thompson St, Ballston Spa 12020	Ray Otten ballstonspaems@yahoo.com

*note that all dates are tentative – watch the EMS Council website at www.saratogaems.org to confirm.

What vaccinations will be given at the PODs?

The H1N1 and the seasonal flu vaccine will both be available. The H1N1 vaccine, given as a shot in the arm (like seasonal flu vaccine), is an inactivated vaccine (vaccine that has killed virus in it). Seasonal flu vaccine can be given either as a nasal spray (live virus) or as an inactivated virus (shot in the arm). There are vaccine information sheets posted on the home page of the EMS Council website at www.saratogaems.org for all three vaccines (H1N1 shot, seasonal shot, and seasonal nasal spray).

Who can receive the vaccine?

Any Saratoga County emergency responder age 19 or older and high risk family members. This includes EMS personnel, firefighters, and law enforcement officers. You do not need to be providing EMS care to be eligible for the vaccine. We are concerned about emergency responders being a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients in our community and also concerned about illness in our public safety workforce that could impair our ability to deliver emergency services in the county. High risk family members include household contacts and caregivers in your family for children under 6 months old, people you live with between the ages of 25 -64 with certain chronic medical conditions like cancer, blood disorders (including sickle cell disease), chronic lung disease (including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), diabetes, heart disease, kidney disorders, liver disorders, neurological disorders (including nervous system, brain or spinal cord), neuromuscular disorders (including muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis), and people with weakened immune systems (including people with AIDS or those who are receiving chemotherapy). Pregnant women are also high risk family members and should get the vaccine but must receive a thimerosal free vaccine which will not be available at the PODs. Questions can be directed to Barbara DiGangi, PHN at Saratoga County Public Health phone 518-

584-7460 ext. 365 or by email to bdigangi@saratogacountyny.gov. Vaccine appointments for pregnant women can also be scheduled by calling Public Health. Some nursing mothers may also wish to receive thimerosal free vaccine instead through Public Health instead of attending a POD.

Do I need to get a seasonal flu vaccine before I get the H1N1 shot?

No. Emergency responders are encouraged to get the seasonal flu vaccine because they are at risk for seasonal flu and are also potential sources of infection for their family members and patients. As we will have seasonal flu vaccine available in the PODs, public safety workers who wish to receive seasonal flu vaccines can get both at the same time.

Is there a charge for vaccines at the POD?

No. There is no charge for emergency responders or high risk family members vaccinated at one of the PODs.

Do I need an appointment or should I just show up at a POD?

Appointments are not required. So that we have sufficient vaccine available, you should let your chief officer know which POD you will be attending. Chief Officers are asked to pass approximate counts on to the Point Contacts (see email list above) or to either the County EMS Coordinator (mcevoymike@aol.com) or County Fire Coordinator (etremblay@saratogacountyny.gov).

Who can I contact with questions?

If you have questions about the vaccine or medical issues, you can contact Barb DiGangi at Saratoga County Public Health 518-584-7460 ext. 365 or email bdigangi@saratogacountyny.gov. If you have questions about logistics, you can contact County EMS Coordinator Mike McEvoy at 518-383-8608 or email mcevoymike@aol.com. You can also check the EMS Council website for updates at www.saratogaems.org.