

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Flu Clinic Scheduling Basics

1. *How much will it cost my organization/company to host a flu shot clinic?*

Typically there is no cost to your organization/company for hosting a flu shot clinic. If your clinic does not meet the minimum shot count, the host site could be billed.

2. *What is the minimum number of shots required to host a flu shot clinic?*

Worksite Clinics: 25 shot minimum; Other clinics: 20 shot minimum

3. *How is the cost of the flu vaccination covered?*

MVNA will:

- Accept cash/check (2009-2010 price is \$24.99)
- Bill insurance plans listed in question 4
- Invoice the employer

4. *What insurances do you take?*

MVNA can bill major insurances including Medicare, Medica; Blue Cross/ Blue Shield, Health Partners, Aetna, Unicare, UCare, Humana, Cigna, MCHA, MHP, and MN Health Care.

5. *When do you offer flu clinics?*

We offer flexible scheduling. Clinics are scheduled for the months of October – December. We provide clinics Sunday – Saturday.

6. *May we bring family members to the clinic?*

Yes, if the clinic site coordinator has opted to open the clinic up to family members ages **4 and up**.

(For ages 6 months – 4 years, special requests may be accommodated).

7. *Who can receive a flu shot?*

Ages 4 years old and up may receive the flu vaccine.

8. *Do you have Thimerosal free vaccine?*

No, MVNA will not have Thimerosal free vaccine.

9. *Do you offer FluMist?*

MVNA will offer FluMist on a limited basis. Nurses will bring FluMist to clinics if available.

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### **Flu Vaccination**

1. *Will I get the flu from the flu shot or FluMist?*

**Shot:** No. Flu vaccine is created from inactivated viruses that are not contagious.

**FluMist:** Unlike the flu shot, the nasal spray flu vaccine does contain live viruses. However, the viruses are attenuated (weakened) and cannot cause flu illness.

A person can still get the flu after being vaccinated because like other vaccines, flu vaccine is not 100% effective and does not take effect until one or two weeks after it is received.

2. *Do I need a flu vaccination every year?*

Yes. Influenza viruses change every year. Also, the antibodies a person develops from the vaccine declines over time.

3. *Can a pregnant or breastfeeding woman receive a flu vaccination?*

**Shot:** Yes.

**FluMist:** No. This includes women who are planning to become pregnant during the flu season.

4. *When is the best time to get vaccinated?*

In Minnesota flu typically peaks in February and March. Clinics are generally scheduled the months of October – December to offer protection for the entire flu season.

5. *Will the 2009-2010 seasonal flu vaccine protect me from the Novel Influenza A H1N1(Swine Flu)?*

Currently, the H1N1 (**Swine Flu**) strain is **NOT** included in the upcoming seasonal flu vaccine.

6. *Why get the flu vaccination?*

- “You can’t afford to be sick!”
- 36,000 people die/year from the flu and flu complications
- 200,000 people/year are hospitalized with the flu
- It is the number one vaccine-preventable cause of death in the United States.