
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Offers Facts About Vaccine Recall

(Grand Rapids, MI) – In response to the non-safety-related voluntary recall of doses of H1N1 vaccine, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) would like to assure the public that today’s recall is not a cause for concern about the safety of the product. Here are some facts about today’s recall:

- The recall affects doses of H1N1 flu vaccine intended for children ages 6 to 35 months. **There are no safety concerns for children who have received the recalled vaccine.**
- Vaccine manufacturers routinely test flu vaccines after they go out to health care providers to ensure that vaccines continue to meet required standards. In recent testing of its H1N1 flu vaccine, the vaccine manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur found vaccine doses with slightly lower-than-specified potency levels. The manufacturer is conducting a voluntary recall of the affected doses of vaccine.
- The Kent County Health Department received 400 of the recalled doses of vaccine. Of those, 130 had been sent to health care providers in Kent County. The other 270 doses were designated for use at KCHD. The 270 doses designated for use at KCHD have not been administered and will be sent back to the manufacturer.
- Larger area health care providers may also have received some of the recalled doses directly from McKesson, the vaccine distributor. McKesson will be contacting providers directly to inform them about the recall.
- Lot numbers of affected doses are recorded on the influenza vaccination information card given to clients at the time of vaccination. Affected lot numbers are as follows: UT023DA, UT028CB, and UT030CA. Those who received vaccine and are concerned about the recall can check their card to determine whether or not they have received a recalled dose.
- While recalled doses are below the desired potency, **the Food & Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention agree that this is unlikely to result in a clinically significant reduction in immune response among persons who have received the vaccine. There is no need to revaccinate persons who have received the affected vaccine.**

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to the whole of Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and the Westside of Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD and our services, visit www.accesskent.com/health. Follow us at twitter.com/kchd and search for us on facebook.

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Vaccination remains the number one way to avoid the flu each year. Kent County residents seeking vaccination against H1N1 flu may contact their doctor, pharmacist, or call 2-1-1 to make an appointment at one of three KCHD clinic locations. Appointments also may be made online at www.stickittotheflu.com.

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