

NSBA's Survey of Superintendents on H1N1 Vaccination Clinics in Schools (August 17, 2009)

Background

The National School Boards Association, in partnership with state school boards associations and with National Affiliate program outreach, conducted an on-line survey of local school district superintendents about their attitudes, plans, and concerns regarding the possibility of H1N1 vaccination clinics taking place in schools when the vaccine is ready.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expects the vaccine which most likely will require two separate doses, to be ready for distribution around October 2009. CDC has determined that the best approach to reducing the spread of the H1N1 virus is through vaccination, especially in the populations where spread of H1N1 has been highest—which includes school-aged children.

Key Findings

The survey, which had 485 respondents, found that school officials, while agreeable to having students vaccinated for the H1N1 virus in schools, had concerns about liability. They also look to the state and local government for guidance, with specific involvement from the local public health department. Key findings to note are provided below and a summary of these data are also presented in a [School Board News online article](#).

- 74.4 percent of respondents agreed to allow the vaccine to be administered in school buildings. Of those who did not agree:
 - 61 percent cited liability issues as a chief concern,
 - 41 percent cited concerns around vaccine safety and effectiveness, and
 - 27 percent said children should be vaccinated by their own health care provider.
- More than 50 percent (54 percent) of respondents have not participated in a school-based vaccination program in the past five years.
- School district officials prefer to have a combination of during and after school availability for the vaccination clinic (53 percent).
 - Nearly 50 percent (48.8 percent) of respondents agreed that their decision on a school-located vaccine program would be influenced by the state/local health department. Also, 64 percent of respondents would seek guidance from the state/local health department on vaccination program implementation.
- 82 percent of respondents are superintendents, and 83 percent are from rural districts.

TOTAL RESPONSES: 485

1. Would your district allow H1N1 vaccine to be administered to students in your school building?

<u>Response</u>	<u># of Respondents</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	361	74.4%
No	4	0.8%
Maybe/not sure	120	24.7%

1a. If you replied "No" or "Maybe/not sure" to Question 1, what is your main objection or concern

<u>Response</u>	<u># of Respondents</u>	<u>%</u>
The disruption of class time would not be acceptable	17	15.3%
Resources may be inadequate (e.g. staffing, facilities)	26	23.4%
Concerns about the vaccine itself (safety or effectiveness)	46	41.4%
Children should be vaccinated in health care provider's offices	30	27.0%
Liability issues	68	61.3%
Other	24	21.6%

2. Has your district participated in school-located vaccines (SLV)(for any type of vaccine) in the past 5 years? (Please do not include vaccination provided at school-based health centers.)

<u>Response</u>	<u># of Respondents</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	135	28.5%
No	255	53.9%
Maybe/not sure	83	17.5%

2a. If you replied Yes to Question 2, who organized and led this effort?

<u>Response</u>	<u># of Respondents</u>	<u>%</u>
Individual Schools	10	7.4%
The School District	58	43.0%
Public Health Dept	82	60.7%
Private health care provider	13	9.6%
Other	11	8.1%

3. When would you prefer to have a vaccination clinic at schools in your district?

<u>Response</u>	<u># or Respondents</u>	<u>%</u>
During school hours	97	21.4%
After school hours	48	10.6%
Combination during and after	241	53.2%
Not sure	58	12.8%
N/A – wouldn't allow	9	2.0%

4. If an endorsement or recommendation for H1N1 SLV were made by the following organizations, which would most influence your decision to offer H1N1 SLV in your own district?

<u>Response</u>	<u>#of Respondents</u>	<u>%</u>
US Dept of Ed	18	4.0%
State Ed Agency	56	12.4%
CDC	117	25.8%
State/local health dept	221	48.8%
Dept of Homeland Security	3	0.7%
NSBA	1	0.2%
State School Boards Assn	17	3.8%
N/A – wouldn't promote	7	1.5%
Other	13	2.9%

5. From which organization would you be most likely to seek guidance on H1N1 SLV implementation?

<u>Response</u>	<u># of Respondents</u>	<u>%</u>
US Dept of Ed	10	2.2%
State Ed Agency	56	12.4%
CDC	65	14.3%
State/local health dept	289	63.8%
Dept of Homeland Security	0	0%
NSBA	2	0.4%
State School Boards Assn	13	2.9%
N/A – wouldn't promote	5	1.1%
Other	13	2.9%

Demographics of Respondents

<u>Student Population</u>	<u># of Respondents</u>	<u>%</u>
1-499	79	18.0%
500-999	113	25.8%
1,000-1,499	126	28.8%
2,500-4,999	70	16.0%
5,000-9,999	31	7.1%
10,000-19,999	12	2.7%
20,000-29,999	1	0.2%
30,000+	6	1.4%
Skipped	47	

<u>School District Type</u>	<u>#of Respondents</u>	<u>%</u>
Urban	18	4.1%
Suburban	58	12.8%
Rural	364	83.1%
Skipped	47	

<u>Title</u>	<u># of respondents</u>	<u>%</u>
Superintendent	359	82.0%
Assistant Supt.	10	2.3%
Other	69	15.8%
Skipped	47	