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The City of Burleson's emergency management division, the Burleson Independent School District (BISD) and Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) are teaming up to provide H1N1 vaccinations to the public on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 4 p.m.-7 p.m., at Hughes Middle School on Thomas Street.

The vaccinations are free. They will be administered on a first-come, first serve basis. The shots are available to everyone, including the elderly, who did not have access to the vaccine when it was first released. Children must be accompanied by a parent. Children must be at least 6 months old to receive the vaccine. TCPH officials will have both nasal vaccines and vaccine injections. You are not required to bring any medical records to the vaccination clinic, but will be asked to fill out forms supplied by the TCPH.

You do not have to be a Burleson resident to take part in the vaccination clinic. TCPH is supplying the free vaccines, the BISD is providing the location, and the City is providing police officers for crowd control and fire fighters to help watch and assess patients after the vaccinations are administered.

According to TCPH, it takes about two weeks for the vaccine to take effect.

H1N1 is a human influenza virus with additional genetic components of swine and avian (bird) origin that first caused illness in Mexico and the United States in March and April, 2009. The first H1N1 patient in the United States was confirmed by laboratory testing at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on April 15, 2009.

How do you fight the flu? TCPH suggests:

- Keep your hands clean.
- Cover your cough and your sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid close contact.
- Stay at home when you are sick.

Tarrant County Public Health has created a Facebook page to help keep people informed and linked to local H1N1 information. To connect with TCPH on Facebook, type Tarrant County Public Health into the search bar. For additional public health information, go to <http://health.tarrantcounty.com>