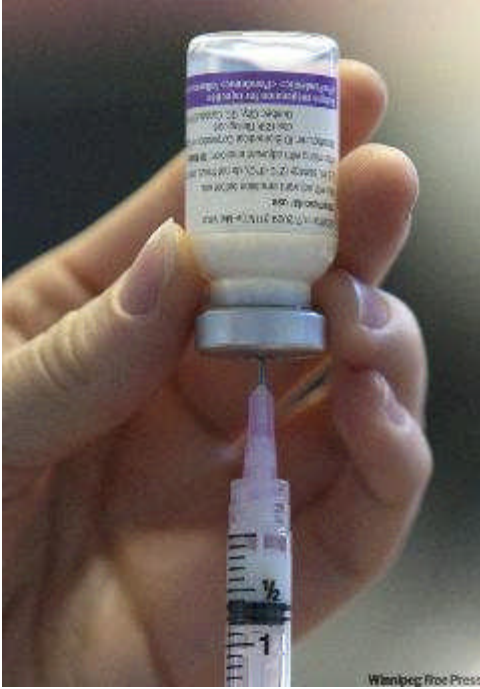


Travellers should consider H1N1 shot: health officials

By: Staff Writer

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A nurse draws the H1N1 vaccine into a syringe. (PAWEL DWULIT / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

WINNIPEG - The provincial Health Department is encouraging people who are contemplating travelling outside the country to get their H1N1 flu shot.

The government said in a press release this afternoon that some countries may ask travellers to provide proof of vaccination -- however, the release didn't provide any examples of countries that require or may require such proof.

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The province suggested people contact their travel agent or a foreign country's consulate or embassy to see if visitors need to get the H1N1 shot.

Provincial health authorities are offering vaccination clinics in workplaces across the province. The shot is also available at regional clinics, public health offices and many doctors' offices.

In its latest flu bulletin released today, the Health Department said about 443,000 Manitobans have been vaccinated for H1N1 — or 37 per cent of the population.

About half of all children aged six months to nine years have received the shot, as have one-third of children 10 to 18. About one-quarter of men aged 19 to 64 have been vaccinated, compared with 35 per cent of women in the same age group. Just over 40 per cent of adults over the age of 65 have been immunized.

According to the bulletin, there were no new positive H1N1 tests reported to Manitoba Health last week. Since the second wave of the H1N1 flu began on Oct. 6, there have been 1,773 lab-reported cases of H1N1 in the province.