

BMC HealthNet Plan Members

Flu Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

(updated 4 November 2009)

Does BMC HealthNet Plan cover seasonal and H1N1 flu shots?

Yes, the Plan covers seasonal and H1N1 (formerly known as “swine flu”) shots when they are given by BMC HealthNet Plan providers.

Where can I go to get a flu shot?

Members can visit the following providers in BMC HealthNet Plan’s network:

- Primary (PCP) or specialty care physicians
- Outpatient hospitals and their associated health centers or school-based health clinics
- Community health centers and associated school-based health clinics
- Home care agencies
- Nurse midwives or nurse practitioners

You do not need a referral or authorization to get a flu shot from a BMC HealthNet Plan provider. (Requirements for all other referrals and authorizations remain in effect.) Currently, BMC HealthNet Plan is not covering flu shots received at pharmacies or other retail locations such as CVS or WalMart. That policy is currently under review. Members: please check back here or call our Member Services department at 1-888-566-0010 (MassHealth members) or 1-877-957-5300 (Commonwealth Care members) for any update on this policy.

You can also go to one of the many free flu clinics being offered to get flu shots. Call your local public health department to find out about these clinics. You can also visit <http://flu.masspro.org/clinic/> to search for flu clinics in your area. This listing includes both free and paid clinics so you’ll need to find out first the nature of the clinic. To avoid having to pay, you should only go to free clinics since BMC HealthNet Plan may not cover you for getting a shot at a paid clinic.

Is the flu vaccine available now?

Both seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines are available now, but supplies may be limited. BMC HealthNet Plan does not have information on which providers have the vaccines on hand. You should check with your provider to find out if the provider has supplies of the vaccines.

Who should get a flu shot and is a doctor required to give the member a flu shot?

For more information on who should get flu shots, visit [BMC HealthNet Plan’s home page](#) for links to flu information. Flu shots are a covered benefit by the Plan. You should talk to your provider about whether you need either seasonal flu or H1N1 flu shots – or both.

Where can I get more information about the flu and flu shots?

Visit www.cdc.gov/flu or www.flu.gov for more information.

