



Rachel Nolan MP

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Free swine flu vaccinations continue in Term 2

Queensland Health will be operating a second round of free swine flu vaccination clinics throughout the state from this weekend.

Member for Ipswich and Minister for Transport, Rachel Nolan MP said the clinics were primarily being held to provide children between the ages of 6 months and 9 years with a second dose of the swine flu vaccine (Parvax® H1N1).

"It is recommended children in this age bracket receive a second vaccination at least 28 days after their first dose, so Queensland Health will hold approximately 124 second round clinics around the state in Term 2," she said.

"However, these clinics are not solely for second dose vaccinations – any member of the public will be able to receive the free vaccine at these clinics.

"I urge Queenslanders who have not yet been immunised against swine flu to attend one of Queensland Health's free vaccination clinics around the state in the coming weeks."

Ms Nolan said the following clinic has been confirmed:

- Bremer State High School on Saturday, 17 April 2010 from 9am to 3pm

"All second round clinics are scheduled to take place before the end of May, and details of further clinics will be made available as they are confirmed."

Ms Nolan said the response to the Queensland Government's free vaccination clinics in Term 1 had been great.

"In the first school term, there was a good turnout at the clinic previously held at Bremer State High School," she said.

"A total of more than 16,370 vaccinations were provided at clinics in the Darling Downs-West Moreton health service district in Term 1.

"Throughout the state so far, over 111,000 vaccine doses have been administered at more than 250 free clinics.

Ms Nolan said the total number of vaccine doses administered through all providers including free clinics and GPs had now risen to over 852,600 – up from approximately 628,000 before the free clinics began on 27 February 2010.

"It's great to see so many Queenslanders are making an effort to protect themselves, their family and their local community against swine flu.

"A second wave is likely so it is vital that children and adolescents are immunised to help protect themselves and the broader community, but everyone in the family above the age of six months should be vaccinated.

"The impact of a second wave of swine flu will be greatly reduced as the number of people vaccinated continues to rise, so I encourage anyone who hasn't yet been vaccinated to take advantage of the upcoming second round clinics.

"Having the vaccination as soon as possible gives the best protection against swine flu for each individual," she said.

For further information about the school immunisation clinics or about swine flu in general, contact 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or visit the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au.

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