



James Clark photo

**Around 100 people wait Tuesday for a swine flu vaccination shot in a line that stretched the length of the River Park Hospital lobby. The hospital ran out of vaccine Wednesday.**

# River Park gives 2,500 swine flu shots in 3 days

By JAMES CLARK  
 Editor for the Southern Standard  
 (McMinnville, Tenn.)

Due to an overwhelming response, River Park Hospital ran out of its 2,500 doses of the swine flu vaccine Wednesday at 4 p.m., forcing the remainder of the four-day clinic to be canceled.

The clinic was originally scheduled to last until 6 p.m. Wednesday, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday.

"There was a tremendous outpouring of people who wanted to get vaccinated," said River Park marketing director Claudia Hall. "We have ordered more and will be getting more at some point, but we're at the mercy of the state and the manufacturer on how much is produced."

As more vaccine becomes available, additional clinics will be scheduled at River Park, according to Hall.

While the hospital is out of vaccine, the Warren County Health Department says it will likely hold an H1N1 flu shot clinic the week of Nov. 16. The health department has not provided a specific date.

The rush for local residents to get vaccinated comes as the World Health Organization's top flu chief said yesterday the swine flu virus has become the predominant flu strain worldwide. In some countries, swine flu

accounts for up to 70 percent of the flu viruses being sampled, according to Dr. Keiji Fukuda, WHO's top flu official.

While most people recover from the illness without needing medical treatment, health officials are also continuing to see severe cases in people under 65 — people who are not usually at risk during regular flu seasons.

"We remain quite concerned about the patterns we're seeing," said Dr. Fukuda said during a press briefing yesterday.

He said the swine flu virus appears to be fairly stable, and that samples from around the world remain very similar to when the virus was first identified in April. Regarding the recent surge of cases in the Ukraine — which has reported more than 250,000 cases and 70 deaths of people with flu-like illness in recent weeks — Fukuda said the virus appeared no different there than anywhere else.

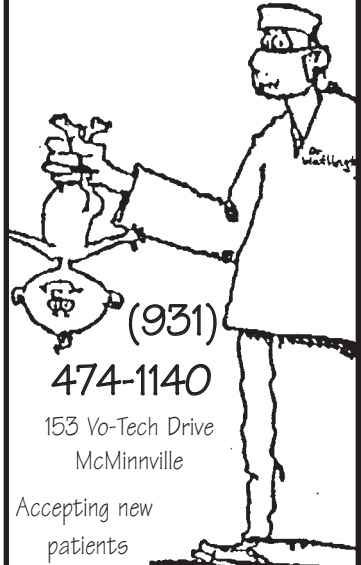
"We simply have to understand that influenza can cause outbreaks in very large numbers of people," he said. "Patterns can be quite different from country to country."

As for local vaccinations, some pediatric patients who require a second dose of the swine flu vaccine will still be able to get that

shot at River Park. The hospital reserved the second dose and it will be available next month in a second dose clinic.

Questions can be directed to River Park community relations coordinator Ashley Wright at 815-4349.

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