

This won't hurt a bit



Jaxsyn Patterson, 3, isn't too happy about getting a shot from Janis Darnaby yesterday at River Park Hospital. Jaxsyn

received a hug from his dad, Chris, to help get him through the experience.

James Clark photo

Turnout high for swine flu shots at hospital

By JAMES CLARK
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The line stretched from one end of the River Park lobby to the other as people and their children packed into the hospital yesterday for a free swine flu vaccine.

River Park marketing director Claudia Hall said 263 health care workers received a shot Monday and estimated late yesterday afternoon that close to 1,000 children and their parents would get a shot on Tuesday.

"I'm not surprised one bit by the turnout," said River Park pharmacy director Tim France, who organized the flu vaccine clinic. "Everybody is running out of shots, but when River Park ordered, we ordered enough for the whole county."

The hospital had over 2,500 doses avail-

Flu shots recommended



The Centers for Disease Control is recommending the H1N1 vaccine as a way to prevent the spread of swine flu

able.

The wait varied depending on the time of arrival. While one parent estimated the wait at around 15 minutes shortly after school let out, the wait stretched to around an hour for people who arrived at 4 p.m.

"It started at 8 a.m. and hasn't let up," said

France. "They were lined up all the way to the elevator."

With four nurses giving the shots at a time, the line moved fairly quickly. Many of the children were reluctant to get the shot, with some clutching a favorite stuffed animal or lollipop.

"I've probably given 250 shots today," said nurse Janis Darnaby. "There have been a lot of screaming kids, but we're trying to prevent people from getting the flu."

The swine flu shot clinic continues today from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. when high-risk adults and adults age 18 to 45 can be vaccinated. Anyone can be vaccinated Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hall said despite the demand, she believes the hospital will have enough vaccine for everyone.

"I think we're in good shape," she said.