

August 3, 2009

To: Health Benefit Representatives

From: Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina and the State Health Plan

Seasonal flu season is just around the corner, and we want you and your employees to be prepared. National statistics show that more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from seasonal flu complications each year, and on average the seasonal flu causes approximately 36,000 deaths per year, in addition to the enormous costs associated with illness and lost time from work. Getting a seasonal flu shot is the best way for individuals to protect themselves from the seasonal flu.

BCBSNC, in cooperation with the State Health Plan, is again offering you the opportunity to host seasonal flu shot clinics at designated employee worksites this fall. Our vendor, Maxim Healthcare Services, will send a team of nurses to worksites and provide shots while supplies last to employees, retirees and dependents who are covered by the State Health Plan and/or BCBSNC. Children between the ages of nine and 17 must have parents present to receive a flu shot. Children under nine must go to a physician for their seasonal flu shot. Family members and employees who are *not* covered by the State Health Plan and/or BCBSNC will be charged \$30 for a flu shot.

Worksite clinics will be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis, so we encourage you to complete the clinic request form early. The attached documents describe how the program will work and your agency's responsibilities for hosting a clinic. If you are interested in hosting a worksite seasonal flu shot clinic, please review these documents carefully, complete the attached request form and submit it to Maxim via e-mail at [bcbsnc@maxhealth.com](mailto:bcbsnc@maxhealth.com) (preferred) or by fax (410-910-1720).

The criteria for hosting a seasonal flu shot clinic include the following:

- Requests must be made at least **2 weeks in advance** and the form must be received no later than **September 30**.
- The worksite must have at least 51 employees who are State Health Plan members and be able to **guarantee that at least 25 flu shots will be given**.
  - If your site does not have at least 51 employees, you may team up with another agency and/or allow retirees and dependents to attend your clinic.
  - If you host a clinic with another agency, you must agree on *one* site for the clinic.
  - **If less than 25 seasonal flu shots are given, Maxim will charge \$24.00 for each shot that falls short of the minimum – no exceptions.**
- If you have multiple worksites where you plan to hold clinics, one form must be completed for each site.
- Members must **present a valid State Health Plan and/or BCBSNC ID card and a photo ID**.

As an added convenience, State Health Plan members and their dependents may also get their seasonal flu shot at their doctor's office, a participating Minute Clinic (search under [Find a Doctor](#) for "Convenience Care Center") or by an in-network pharmacist (search under [Find a Doctor](#) for "Pharmacist – Flu and Other Limited Injections"). *Similar to last year, BCBSNC will not be offering seasonal flu shots at regional clinics and retail locations.*



North Carolina  
State Health Plan

for Teachers and State Employees

[www.shpnc.org](http://www.shpnc.org)

*Please be aware that any worksite clinics not arranged between BCBSNC and our flu shot vendor, Maxim, or seasonal flu shots not obtained through a physician's office, Minute Clinic or by a participating pharmacist may result in a cost to the member.*

### **H1N1 Flu Virus**

The seasonal flu vaccine will *not* protect against the H1N1 flu virus (swine flu). Protection against H1N1 influenza will need a separate vaccine, which is still being developed. H1N1 vaccine availability will depend on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and supply. It will also depend on the CDC and State Health Department distribution plans that are currently being developed. BCBSNC and Maxim are aware of these issues and plan to make services available to employer groups for H1N1 vaccination, as soon as possible, pending recommendations and availability. BCBSNC will provide updates to the State Health Plan as more information becomes available.

If you have questions about your seasonal flu shot clinic request, call Maxim at (866) 360-0499. Thank you for being a valued State Health Plan customer. As always, we appreciate your business.