



**By Jan Schultz**

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Between 50 and 60 students and staff spent part of their last day at school before the holiday break, getting an H1N1 flu shot.

Staff with the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department and School Nurse Angie Paisley rounded up students last Friday who required the second dose of H1N1, or others who hadn't received the special flu shot yet.

School Nurse Paisley said about 155 students and eligible staff received the first H1N1 flu shot on Nov. 19, also during a special school clinic. Children nine years and younger must have two doses of H1N1.

Last Friday, many of those requiring that second shot were lining up near the school's distance learning lab, where the health department set up for the day.

Several teachers who weren't among the priority groups in November when the flu vaccine was restricted were able to receive the shot last week if they wanted, Paisley noted. Older students had that option, too, with parents' permission.

The state of Nebraska has opened up the H1N1 vaccine to all persons now.

This means anyone who wants to get vaccinated does not have to be screened as a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) priority group, according to Kelli Pachner, Public Health Nurse with Southwest Nebraska Public Health.

Paisley said she doesn't know what to expect with the flu when students and staff return to classes in January.

"The seasonal flu usually hits in January and February," she noted.

This year's seasonal flu is expected to be worse than the H1N1 flu that's been getting more of the publicity.

Paisley said a lot more people received the seasonal flu shot this year, probably due to all the hype with H1N1.

