

One year old twins Vivian and Cecilia are two Lee County residents who should really get the swine flu vaccine. Problem is their mother's never heard of it.

"En el family center?"

A push in Lee County...to make sure illegal immigrants come in! Health workers are going all out -- to reach out to Southwest Florida's immigrant neighborhoods. Their hope is to encourage people to get the swine flu shot. It's important in stopping the spread of this highly contagious illness. But, some of the intended targets of this awareness campaign aren't getting the message.

"It doesn't scare me, as long as you got Jesus in you, you're not scared of nothing."

That poses a problem for health workers, trying to stop this highly contagious flu.

Information is something health officials want to spread. To reach Southwest Florida's Hispanic community, they face a double-dose of obstacles: language and fear.

J. James-Mesloh - Lee Co. Health Dept.: "One of the things that we've been doing over the last several months is there is a local Spanish radio station in our community and we had ongoing health segments with them."

It's a hard sell, especially for illegal immigrants. We tried speaking with people about the shot. If they didn't want to talk to us, they really don't want to talk with public health officials. Afraid they might get busted for being here illegally.

J. James-Mesloh - Lee Co. Health Dept. - "We are not asking any residency status whatsoever. Regardless of whether they are a resident of the United States or a resident of the state of Florida."

School aged kids may be able to get their shots at school. It's the adults who need the coaxing.

"Sometimes they send a truck around the community here, to take the shot."

Passing the word...may be the best line of defense.

Health workers are moving full speed ahead getting the word out. The flu vaccine is expected in Southwest Florida in mid-October.

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