



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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For Immediate Release: October 2, 2009

NEWS

HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATING SCHOOL-BASED H1N1 FLU VACCINE CLINICS

HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO – Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) is working with local schools to administer the H1N1 flu vaccine through school vaccination clinics. This should be a minimal interruption to students' regular schedules while providing protection to thousands of children from H1N1 flu.

School age children are among the key high-risk populations identified by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as being likely to come in contact with H1N1 flu. Like seasonal flu, H1N1 flu can be a serious contagious disease. An important step in protecting children from H1N1 flu is to receive the H1N1 flu vaccine.

“We anticipate the first shipment of H1N1 flu vaccine to arrive in mid-October and additional shipments to arrive weekly,” Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner said. “By working with schools to vaccinate school-age children, this allows physicians and health care centers focus on vaccinating other priority populations.”

Vaccine availability will be limited at first, therefore people at highest risk for serious illness or complications from H1N1 flu will be first priority to receive the H1N1 vaccine. These groups include:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency services personnel who have direct patient contact
- Persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age
- People 25 - 64 with chronic health disorders or weakened immune systems

In order to administer vaccine as efficiently as possible, HCPH has offered to coordinate H1N1 flu vaccine clinics with all public, private and parochial schools in our jurisdiction (this excludes the cities of Cincinnati, Sharonville, Springdale and Norwood – these areas have separate health departments). Vaccine administered as part of all local school-based H1N1 flu vaccination clinics will be provided free of charge.

NEWS

Parents should receive a consent form and other vaccine information next week for each enrolled child and they should follow guidelines set by the school for completion.

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