

# H1N1 Flu Virus Media Release



St. Clair County Health Department

Public Health Update

Issue #2

October 14, 2009

**Current Situation:** Due to overwhelming response from the community, the St. Clair County Health Department is currently out of injectable (shots) **seasonal flu** vaccine. However, there is still a limited supply of the nasal mist vaccine for seasonal flu available. The nasal mist is approved for people from 2-49 years of age who are not pregnant and do not have certain health conditions such as asthma or other long-term health conditions. Walk-in clinics are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:15-4pm. The cost is \$25. Medicaid is also accepted. Children 6 months through 18 without immunization coverage may qualify for a reduced fee under the Vaccines for Children Program. Information on community flu shot clinic locations can be found on the Health Department's website:

[www.stclaircounty.org/offices/health](http://www.stclaircounty.org/offices/health). **A 24/7 H1N1 Flu hotline has also been established as an additional resource for local flu information: 1-800-552-1183.**

As soon as adequate supplies of injectable and nasal mist **H1N1 flu** vaccine arrive in our community, times and locations of school and community vaccination clinics will be posted. Residents are advised to continue to monitor the Health Department website, as well as local school district websites, for information on vaccination clinic times and sites. The vaccine will be provided at no cost through Health Department and school vaccination clinics; however other community healthcare providers may charge an administration fee. Packets, including parental consent forms and vaccine information, will be sent home with county school district students as soon as clinic dates and times are confirmed. *Clinic dates may change, as vaccine shipments may not be received as planned or expected!*

Initial doses of the **H1N1 flu** vaccine will be targeted to the following high risk populations:

- Pregnant women
- Children 6 months – 24 years
- Caregivers of children under 6 months
- Healthcare workers & medical first responders
- People aged 25-64 with underlying health conditions such as asthma, diabetes or heart/lung conditions

We are asking residents to be patient and allow us to focus initially on vaccinating people in the above high-risk categories. It is expected that there will be adequate supplies available to provide for all those who wish to receive it.

## **Current Recommendations:**

- Take advantage of any opportunity to get a seasonal flu shot
- Anyone in the H1N1 high risk categories above should plan on getting an H1N1 vaccination
- Most people with flu-like symptoms do not need to see a physician
- Stay informed by checking the websites below as well as local print and radio communications

## **Personal Protection Reminders:**

- Wash hands often or use alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissue or your sleeve
- Stay home when you are sick (24 hours after fever is gone)
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Frequently clean commonly shared surfaces (door knobs, etc.)

**Resources for more information:**

[www.stclaircounty.org/offices/health](http://www.stclaircounty.org/offices/health)

[www.cdc.gov/h1n1](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1)

[www.michigan.gov/h1n1](http://www.michigan.gov/h1n1)

**24 hour/7 days/week H1N1 Flu Hotline: 1-800-552-1183**

**For more information contact:**

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