

# H1N1 Flu Virus Media Release



St. Clair County Health Department

Public Health Update

Issue 6

November 4, 2009

**Current Situation:** Health Department school/community clinics have been conducted in Algonac, Memphis and East China School District buildings. To date, 7,079 vaccinations, including injectable and flumist, have been administered.

As of 11/4/09, priority groups for H1N1 vaccination have changed due to limited supplies of vaccine. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mandates that the following groups receive priority for vaccine at this time:

- Pregnant women
- Persons caring for and household contacts of children under 6 months of age. This includes parents, siblings and day care providers.
- Healthcare workers and emergency medical service personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious materials
- Children and adolescents 6 months through 24 years of age

**People who are not in one of these priority groups will not be vaccinated until vaccine supplies increase.**

## **Current Recommendations:**

- *Parents should reinforce personal protection measures with their students and keep them home if signs of illness are present.* School districts are not required to notify parents of cases of H1N1 influenza. H1N1 influenza is widely circulating within our county, and only those severely ill and/or hospitalized are recommended to be tested. It can be assumed that anyone experiencing influenza-like symptoms may be infected with H1N1 influenza.
- Most children and adults who are in generally good health and experiencing mild symptoms will recover without needing to visit a health care provider
- While H1N1 flu is relatively mild in most cases, it can cause serious illness and complications. Seek medical attention for children who are experiencing fast or trouble breathing, bluish or grayish skin coloring, persistent vomiting, irritability, not drinking enough fluids, or not waking up or interacting.

## **Personal Protection Reminders:**

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissue or sleeve
- Stay home when you are sick (24 hours after fever is gone)
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Keep immune system healthy by getting enough sleep, eating right, exercising and managing stress
- Frequently disinfect commonly touched surfaces (door knobs, counters, etc.)

## **Resources for more information:**

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

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

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

**For more information contact:**

Susan Amato, Dir. of Health Education & Planning  
810-987-5300 Ext. 1510 samato@hd.stclaircounty.org