

H1N1 Flu Virus Media Release



St. Clair County Health Department

Public Health Update

Issue 7

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Current Situation: Today's H1N1 vaccination clinic scheduled for 1:30-8pm at Eddy Elementary in St. Clair has been cancelled due to vaccine supply limitations. 7 school/community clinics have been very successfully conducted since 10/26/09 in St. Clair County and over 7,000 residents received vaccinations. Vaccine supplies received recently from Michigan Department of Community Health have proven to be inadequate to allow the Health Department to conduct community clinics as well as provide vaccine for local health care providers. Therefore department administration made the decision to direct current supplies of vaccine to local physicians and hospitals for distribution to their high risk patients.

The Health Department, as well as local health care providers, will be targeting current supplies of H1N1 vaccine to the following high risk groups, as dictated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

- Pregnant women
- Caregivers and household contacts of children under 6 months of age. This includes parents, siblings and daycare providers.
- Health care workers/emergency medical service personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious materials
- Children and adolescents ages 6 months-24 years

When supplies of vaccine increase, priority groups will be expanded and it is expected that clinics will resume in county school district locations.

Information is updated hourly on the Health Department's website: www.stclaircounty.org/offices/health and residents are urged to visit the site frequently to stay informed on the current H1N1 vaccine situation.

Current Recommendations:

- 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 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
www.cdc.gov/h1n1

www.michigan.gov/h1n1
www.BeatTheFlu.org

For more information contact:

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