



DOUGLAS COUNTY **HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2009

H1N1 FLU VACCINE PLANS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Douglas County Public Health has enrolled nearly 45 physicians, hospitals, pharmacies, EMS, and mass immunizers (e.g., grocery store immunization clinics) to provide H1N1 vaccine to County residents. Douglas County expects the first shipment of vaccine to arrive in the first two weeks of October. The initial shipment of vaccine is expected to be H1N1 FluMist vaccine, and will be distributed to local healthcare providers that employ healthcare workers and emergency medical services personnel that provide direct patient care of ill persons. As more vaccine becomes available, it will be distributed to other enrolled providers. When public clinics are scheduled, they will be advertised through local media, at Oregon Safenet 1-800-SafeNet, and at local pharmacies.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) anticipates that there will be sufficient vaccine to reach all initial target populations. The initial target populations recommended to receive H1N1 vaccine are:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel
- Anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Anyone from 25 through 64 years of age with certain chronic medical conditions or a weakened immune system.
- In addition, Oregon Public Health has included the following as initial target populations: State and local law enforcement officers who have recurring physical contact with the public, guards in state prisons and local jails, and Active duty National Guard in the initial target populations.

According to the CDC, it is expected that once the demand for vaccine for these target groups has been met at the local level, programs and providers will begin vaccinating healthy persons from ages 25 through 64 years. When demand for vaccine for this second population is met, programs and providers will then begin vaccinating persons 65 years of age and older.

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The public is reminded to take action to stay healthy.

- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Stay home if you are sick. If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
- If you have severe illness or you are at high risk for flu complications, contact your health care provider or seek medical care.
- In addition, the CDC recommends that healthcare personnel should not report to work if they have a respiratory illness with fever. In communities where novel H1N1 transmission is occurring, healthcare personnel who develop a respiratory illness with fever should be excluded from work for 7 days or until symptoms have resolved, whichever is longer.

For more information:

- Oregon Flu Help Hotline (toll-free) 1-800-978-3040
- Oregon SafeNet 1-800-SafeNet (1-800-723-3638)
- CDC H1N1 Flu www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/

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