

Delaware General Health District

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NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT WEEKLY INFLUENZA UPDATE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, OH, December 23, 2009 –This is the weekly flu update issued by the Delaware General Health District.

Starting on December 15th, the Delaware General Health District moved to an appointment system for H1N1 vaccinations. As of December 22nd, 3,686 appointments had been scheduled and 3,291 clients had received vaccinations. The appointment system has been quite successful, reducing wait time and the need for staff resources. For information on scheduling an appointment, please check the Delaware General Health District website at www.delawarehealth.org.

The H1N1 immunization clinics are being held at Grady Memorial Hospital's Delaware Health Center at 801 OhioHealth Boulevard. We expect to continue using the Delaware Health Center throughout the winter months. All visitors are asked to enter and exit via U.S. 23. Our clinic schedules will continue to include evening and weekend opportunities to get the H1N1 vaccine. Our H1N1 vaccine stocks remain ample with vaccinations being provided at no charge.

Children under 10 need to get a booster dose of H1N1 vaccine at least 28 days after their initial dose.

CLINIC SCHEDULE: Our upcoming clinics are scheduled for:

- Monday, Dec. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All clinics are by appointment only. To make an appointment, log on to www.delawarehealth.org and follow the links or instructions. We suggest you read the “Helpful Hints” before you try to schedule your appointment. Persons without Internet access should call the Health District at 740-368-1700 or HelpLine at 2-1-1 or 1-800-684-2324.

The Delaware General Health District has exhausted all of its seasonal flu vaccine supplies.

LOCAL CASES: For the week of December 12-December 18, the health District had two confirmed H1N1 cases reported to us this week. Four schools (three elementary and one middle school) reported at least 9% of their students calling in sick at least one day last week due to influenza like illness. Pockets of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) still exist in the community but no schools or businesses have reported as having their daily activity interrupted due to ILI.

SENTINEL SITES AND OTHER SURVEILLANCE: The number of people being seen by a healthcare provider due to Influenza Like Illness continues to be higher than normal. However, the number of people being seen by a healthcare provider due to ILI has declined over the last couple weeks. When compared to the past three years sales data, over the counter sales of medications that treat influenza like illness have returned to their baseline. There was a slight increase in the number of sales for throat lozenges.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL ADVICE: The Delaware General Health District urges county residents to take the following steps to be healthy this holiday season:

- Travel only when you are well.
- Wash your hands often. That can be with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with tissues or with your sleeve.
- Get immunized against flu, particularly if you're in a targeted population. If you're if one of the groups recommended for either the seasonal or H1N1 flu vaccine, stay informed about where you can be immunized in your community.