

Delaware General Health District

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NEWS RELEASE

RECORD 2,333 PERSONS IMMUNIZED AT DELAWARE H1N1 CLINIC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, Oh., Oct. 27, 2009 –Monday’s H1N1 immunization clinic at Buckeye Valley High School served a total of 2,333 persons.

It was the largest turnout ever for a single clinic conducted by the Delaware General Health District by a large margin.

The Delaware General Health District will announce its second H1N1 clinic for specified high-risk groups in the near future. The vaccine shipment that the Health District received today was not sufficient to schedule another large-scale clinic, but more vaccine will arrive next week.

The Health District’s H1N1 Incident Command Team and Delaware County Sheriff’s Office representatives today reviewed Monday’s record-setting clinic and discussed plans for future clinics. Much of the discussion involved future clinic locations and ways to reduce traffic jams and waiting times.

“We thank everyone for their patience at Monday’s clinic. We know there were some inconveniences and it isn’t fun to wait in line for a long time, but we are so pleased that more than 2,300 people will have protection against H1N1 flu,” said Delaware Health Commissioner Frances M. Veverka MPH R.S.

The Delaware County Sheriff’s Office estimated that up to 5,000 vehicles showed up for the clinic, lining up along the full length of Coover Road. Unexpectedly, many families arrived in more than one vehicle. Commissioner Veverka attributed the large turnout to the fact that it was not only the first large scale H1N1 immunization clinic in Delaware County but also the first for children in all of Central Ohio. Attendees were carefully screened, and immunizations were

given only to children 6 months through 18 years old; pregnant women; health care workers in direct patient care; and parents and caregivers of babies less than 6 months old.

The number of children being served also contributed to the wait. Flu immunization clinics for adults normally proceed much faster. Unfortunately, syringes for the youngest of children were depleted. Late in the evening, young children could get only Flu Mist vaccine, which can be given to healthy children 2 and older.

By 7 p.m., traffic was cleared from Coover Road.

About 20 individuals provided immunizations at Monday's clinic. Public Health Nurses were joined by Delaware County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, contract nurses, and paramedics to handle the expected large crowd. On average, 389 people were served each hour, and the doors did not close until the last person in line got their shot around 9 p.m.

Public Health Nurse Judy Dehn R.N. of the Health District staff was among the nurses who worked throughout the clinic. "I was exhausted when we were finally done, but it was exhilarating. You live for that Public Health moment, to serve that number of people in that short amount of time," Dehn said.

Veverka noted that all H1N1 immunization clinics conducted by Local Health Departments are open to all citizens. That is a legal requirement that comes with the federally supplied vaccine.

Residents can check on upcoming H1N1 flu clinics in Delaware County by logging on to www.delawarehealth.org or phoning 740-203-2015 or 2-1-1.