

Delaware General Health District

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NEWS RELEASE

ADULTS WITH CHRONIC ILLNESSES CAN GET H1N1 IMMUNIZATIONS AT TWO CLINICS SET NEXT WEEK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, Oh., Nov. 19, 2009 – The Delaware General Health District will conduct two more large-scale H1N1 immunization clinics on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 24 and 25, at the Delaware County Fairgrounds.

These clinics will be open to adults up to age 64 who have chronic medical conditions putting them at high risk for flu complications. That will be in addition to the other high-risk groups who have been receiving the H1N1 vaccine. Children who received their first dose of H1N1 vaccine prior to Oct. 28 can get their second doses at these clinics.

Both clinics will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Merchants Building on the fairgrounds, located on the north side of the City of Delaware. Clients are asked to use the U.S. 23 entrance to the fairgrounds; other vehicle gates will be closed.

The clinics will serve the following groups at high risk for H1N1 flu:

- Pregnant women
- Children and young adults aged 6 months to 24 years
- People who live with or care for babies under 6 months old
- Persons aged 25-64 years with chronic medical conditions (Asthma, Neurological Conditions, Chronic Lung Disease, Heart Disease, Blood Disease, Endocrine Disorders, Kidney Disorders, Liver Disorders, Metabolic Disorders, Weakened Immune System due to medication or disease)

Adults under 65 with chronic medical conditions are asked to bring a list of their medications to the clinic.

Both injectable vaccine and nasal spray vaccine will be available. Persons wanting the H1N1 vaccine are encouraged to preregister online via the link on www.delawarehealth.org and bring their preregistration form to the clinic.

In light of heavy demand for H1N1 immunizations, clients might have to wait up to a few hours in cool weather, and should prepare accordingly. The Health District suggests dressing comfortably and bringing drinking water, lawn chairs, something to read, and activities to keep children occupied. Rest rooms will be available. Clients can check on the length of the line via a live webcam view on www.delawarehealth.org while the clinics are operating.

Except for WIC and Help Me Grow, all other Health District clinic services normally provided on Tuesday and Wednesday have been canceled next week because of the H1N1 clinic.

The Health District urges people wanting the H1N1 vaccine to be aware of the following important information:

- Next week's clinics will be only for people in the high-risk groups described above. More clinics will be scheduled later once more H1N1 vaccine is received. Persons not in the high-risk categories will be offered the vaccine after high-risk persons get their opportunity.
- Adults with chronic medical conditions must bring a list of their medications to the clinic.
- Parents or legal guardians who want others (grandparents, for example) to bring their children to immunization clinics must phone the Health District at 740-203-2040 during weekday business hours **before** the day of the clinic. Parents or guardians must speak with a nurse, answer health assessment questions, sign consent forms, and review vaccine information statements before their children can receive vaccine. This is required regardless of whether the children are preregistered online. Children arriving at clinics without the above steps being followed will not be able to get the vaccine.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that children 9 and younger get a second dose of H1N1 vaccine at least 28 days after the first dose. Children who received doses at the Oct. 26 clinic at Buckeye Valley High School will be eligible to get second doses at next week's clinics.
- Pregnant women will not be required to show documentation of their pregnancy.

- The H1N1 vaccine and parking on the fairgrounds will be free, and no payments of any kind will be required.
- The clinic will have nasal spray vaccine and injectable vaccines with and without preservatives.

The clinics will be conducted by the Delaware General Health District staff with assistance from the Delaware County Emergency Medical Service, Delaware County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, Delaware City Police, the Delaware County Fair Board, and Delaware Citizens Police Academy volunteers.

The Delaware General Health District has administered 8,390 H1N1 immunizations so far this fall. The most recent large-scale clinic on Sunday, Nov. 15, at Olentangy Liberty High School served 2,404 persons.