

# **Delaware General Health District**

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# NEWS RELEASE

## **DELAWARE GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT WEEKLY INFLUENZA UPDATE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                      PHOTO ATTACHED**

For further information contact Jesse Carter, public information officer, at 740-203-2085.

**DELAWARE, OH, November 20, 2009** –The Delaware General Health District will issue weekly updates to local news media throughout the present flu season.

The Delaware General Health District is pleased to announce that more than 8,000 persons have received H1N1 immunizations at our clinics in Delaware County. Last Sunday saw the biggest turnout so far when we served 2,404 people at Olentangy Liberty High School. Despite the massive turnout, there were no traffic problems, and most clients waited less than 30 minutes to get their vaccine.

The Health District also conducted two much smaller clinics aimed at specific high-risk populations. Thirty special-needs children were immunized at a special clinic organized in cooperation with the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Another 99 people took advantage of a clinic just for pregnant women and parents of infants conducted in the Health District's downtown Delaware facility.

The local Health District is broadening eligibility to others also at risk for H1N1 flu. Clinics scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 24 and 25, will be open to two large populations not previously served here:

- Young adults aged 19 through 24.
- Adults aged 25 through 64 with chronic medical conditions. Persons in this category need to bring a list of their medications to the clinic.

We will continue to provide H1N1 immunizations to children ages 6 months through 18 years, pregnant women, eligible health care providers, and parents of infants less than 6 months old. Children under 10 who received their first dose of H1N1 vaccine prior to Oct. 28 (injection or nasal spray) will be eligible to receive their second dose at next week's clinics.

Both the Tuesday and Wednesday clinics will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. Please enter through the U.S. 23 gate.

Another large-scale clinic is being planned for the first week of December. Meanwhile, clinic locations more suitable for winter weather are being scouted. The Health District hopes

that its clinics will be supplemented by vaccine shipments to doctors' offices and pharmacies in the coming months.

One problem noted at the Olentangy Liberty High School clinic was that some TV stations incorrectly announced it would start hours before the scheduled starting time. The Health District encourages all clinic clients to check its web site, [www.delawarehealth.org](http://www.delawarehealth.org), or phone the Information Line at 740-203-2015 for clinic schedule information.

The Delaware General Health District has exhausted all of its seasonal flu vaccine supplies. **Unfortunately, all remaining seasonal flu clinics have been cancelled.**

**LOCAL CASES:** During the week of November 14-20, four more confirmed cases of H1N1 flu were reported to the Delaware General Health District. The cases involved women ages 21, 22, 30, and 50. The 21-year-old, who is pregnant, and the 50-year-old were hospitalized. This brings the total of reported cases for Delaware County to 33.

**SCHOOLS:** No unusual patterns of absences were noted in local schools last week.

**SENTINEL SITES AND OTHER SURVEILLANCE:** The number of people being seen by a healthcare provider due to Influenza-Like Illness dropped over the last couple of weeks but continues to be higher than normal. Pharmacy sales of most over-the-counter medications to treat Influenza-Like Illness have returned to normal, but thermometer sales increased.

For the latest information on Delaware General Health District H1N1 flu immunization clinics, log on to [www.delawarehealth.org](http://www.delawarehealth.org) or phone 740-203-2015 or 2-1-1.



*22-month-old William Berry, held by his mother Bridget Berry, gets an H1N1 immunization from Sue Lisman R.N. of the Delaware General Health District staff earlier this week at a special clinic organized in cooperation with the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities.*