

Delaware General Health District

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NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE COUNTY SEEING UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND FOR FLU SHOTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, Oh., Oct. 20, 2009 – The Delaware General Health District is seeing unprecedented public demand for both seasonal and H1N1 flu immunizations.

At last weekend's annual Super Flu Saturday clinic, a record 704 persons received seasonal flu shots or Flu Mist – nearly double the number served at the same event in 2008. More than 400 people, mostly senior citizens, got seasonal flu shots at the Health District's first seasonal flu clinic at the Center for Older Adults last Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Because of the heavy demand, the Health District expects to run out of seasonal flu vaccine well before the end of the previously announced schedule of flu shot clinics. More seasonal flu vaccine might be obtained, but probably won't be available until January.

Meanwhile, 4,682 Delaware County residents have preregistered online to get the H1N1 vaccine, with about 3,000 in the high-risk categories. The local Health District's initial allotments of H1N1 vaccine are going to emergency medical technicians and other health care workers in direct patient care, including Grady Memorial Hospital employees.

“We have received a minimal amount of the H1N1 vaccine so far, and that is going to our local EMTs, Grady Hospital, and other health care providers in direct contact with patients. As we get additional vaccine, we will be able to provide it to pregnant women and other high-priority recipients,” said Delaware Health Commissioner Frances M. Veverka MPH R.S.

The Health District will announce the first H1N1 immunization clinics for some of the populations who are in the high risk priority groups by next week. The irregularity of vaccine

shipments to the Health District and the types of vaccine received in those shipments is limiting who can get the vaccine at this time. The situation is changing from week to week.

Besides giving lots of shots, the Health District is fielding a lot of calls. For more than a week, our receptionists have fielded more than 100 calls per day from people wanting immunizations or answers about both kinds of flu.

The Health District's next scheduled seasonal flu immunization clinics after today will be Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Scioto Township Hall, 3737 Ostrander Road, Ostrander; and Friday, Oct. 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Genoa Baptist Church on Lewis Center Road at State Route 3 between Sunbury and Westerville. These and subsequent clinics will be conducted if vaccine remains available.

Up-to-date immunization clinic information is available by phoning the Health District Information Line at 740-203-2015 or Helpline at 2-1-1, or logging on to www.delawarehealth.org.