

DeKalb County Health Department

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FROM: Karen Grush, Public Health Administrator



Public Health
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H1N1 Flu Clinic Scheduled for December 9

An H1N1 flu clinic has been scheduled in Sycamore. The Sycamore clinic will be held on Wednesday, December 9 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Sycamore High School, Spartan Trail, in Sycamore.

The clinic will have injectable H1N1 flu vaccine and is for priority DeKalb County residents in the CDC initial target groups.

“Since we continue to have a limited amount of vaccine, this clinic is for DeKalb County individuals in the following CDC initial target groups,” states Grush.

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- All people ages six (6) months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel

The Health Department asks for your cooperation in meeting CDC target group to receive vaccination. Vaccinations will not begin before 9:00am. No appointment is necessary. Vaccines are free of charge and given on a first come first served basis.

Instructions for the clinic:

- **Minor Children:** Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- **Clothing:** Wear short sleeves for easy access to upper arm for injectable vaccine.
- **Wait time:** There may be a wait. Bring items for children, such as water, snacks, and diapers.
- **Consent Forms:** Consent forms for this clinic for individuals 4 years and older are on the Health Department H1N1 flu website at www.dekalbcountyhealthdepartment.org H1N1 link. This form can be printed, completed, and brought to the clinic. Forms for 6 months to 4 years will be available at the clinic.
- **Vaccination Fact Sheet:** The Vaccine Fact Sheets can be reviewed at the Health Department website or at the clinic. You will not be given the vaccine if you are: (1) Allergic to eggs (2) Had a fever of 100° or greater in the past 24 hours (3) Have had a life threatening reaction after a dose of seasonal flu vaccine.

(More)

(Page 2)

“If you are in the target priority group, this is a great time to get your H1N1 vaccination.” says Grush. “Even though there has been a decline in influenza-like-illness related to H1N1, the rates of illness are still above normal for this time of year. While influenza is unpredictable, high levels of flu activity may continue for several weeks, and even after the flu activity peaks, it’s possible that other waves of influenza activity may occur – caused by either H1N1 viruses or regular flu viruses.”

The United States experienced its first wave of 2009 H1N1 pandemic activity in the spring of 2009. At this time we are experiencing a second wave of 2009 H1N1 activity. Flu activity is widespread in most of the country at this time, which is highly unusual during regular flu season for this time of year, but not unexpected for a pandemic.

In past pandemics, “waves” of activity have been observed. The waves of influenza may occur over a year or so after the emergence of a new influenza virus.

Because the timing and spread of influenza viruses are unpredictable, CDC is continuing to recommend vaccination with seasonal influenza vaccine and 2009 H1N1 vaccine for those people in whom it is recommended.

The Health Department offers information at website at: www.dekalbcountyhealthdepartment.org, and hotlines at (English) 815-748-2410; (Spanish) 815-748-2425. The state-wide hotline, staffed by the Illinois Poison Center, is also available at 886-848-2094.

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