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Public Information Release

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H1N1 Vaccine Plentiful Locally

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Since the beginning of November when public health clinics started their vaccination clinics, there was high demand chasing after a limited supply. This resulted in long, but quickly moving lines. Sooner or later, the supply increases and the demand decreases. This has resulted in a couple of things. The first is that there are no more lines. "That is both a good thing and a bad thing," according to James Luken, Health Commissioner for the Miami County Health District. The good thing is that is very convenient for our customers to be able to get in and out quickly. On the down side, more people need to be vaccinated." According to Luken, approximately 7,200 doses have been administered by the Health District. This represents only about 22 to 25% of the at-risk population. "This clearly isn't enough to create a good herd immunity. More people can and should be vaccinated. Washing your hands is only a small part of the equation. Getting vaccinated is 99% of the deal."

H1N1 vaccine supplies in Miami County appear to be adequate to meet the demand, according to Luken. This week, all OB/GYNs and pediatricians, except for Troy Pediatric Care, received at least 100 doses each of the H1N1 vaccine. Troy Pediatrics will receive their vaccine next Tuesday. The Miami County Health District currently has an adequate supply of all types of vaccine to meet the demand for immunizing the priority groups as defined by CDC. Those priority groups are:

- Pregnant women;
- People who live with or care for infants under 6 months of age;
- People ages 6 months through 24 years;
- Health care or emergency medical services personnel;
- People ages 25 through 64 with chronic medical conditions such as lung or heart disease, diabetes or other immunocompromised conditions.

In addition to the public health clinics, OB/GYN and pediatricians' offices, Molen Immunization Clinics are working out of some local Wal-Marts on a sporadic basis. The next public health clinics will be held at the old Steve and Barry's store at the Piqua Mall this Saturday, November 21st, from 9:00 a.m. until noon; Monday, November 23rd from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 24th from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Here are some question and answers that the health district has been answering lately:

Q. How much does it cost?

A. The health district clinics charge nothing. It is completely free of charge. There is no administration fee. Private providers and physicians' offices may charge an administration fee.



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Q. How long are the lines at the public health clinic?

A. In the beginning, there might have been as much as a thirty minute wait. Now that the supply is adequate, there is virtually no waiting. It is quick in, quick out.

Q. I am older than 65 and have several chronic medical conditions. My doctor says that I should get the H1N1 shot. Should I?

A. No. People older than 65, regardless of medical condition, should not get the H1N1 shot. The numbers of older people getting the H1N1 illness are extremely small. They need to get the seasonal flu shot. If they got the seasonal flu shot, they are good to go. If they haven't been able to get it, it would be best to wait until new supplies arrive and get it then. It won't be too late. Getting an H1N1 shot instead of the seasonal flu shot may lull our senior citizens into a false sense of security that they are protected from the flu.

Q. I live in another county. Can I get the vaccine in your county?

A. There are no geographical barriers to getting ANY vaccinations. No matter where you live or work, you can get the vaccine at any place, public or private.

Q. Thirty years ago, I got a flu shot, then I got the flu. That's why I won't get one now.

A. Several possible things can happen. It takes about two weeks for the body to build up an immunity to the flu. You could have contracted the flu between the time you got the shot and when you came down with symptoms. You could have been infected by a strain that wasn't in the flu shot mixture that year. It is impossible to get the flu from a dead virus.

Q. I'm worried about the safety of the vaccine.

A. The H1N1 vaccine undergoes the same manufacturing and testing processes as the seasonal vaccine. The pediatric doses and the FluMist contain no preservatives. The adult injections do contain a preservative to prevent them from going bad. There is no link between the preservative and any disease.

Q. When will you open things up for people outside of the tier groups?

A. The Ohio Department of Health claims to be in charge of that decision and they don't know.

Always check the website for updates. www.miamcountyhealth.net