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Public Information Release

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FREE H1N1 CLINIC OPEN TO ALL

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Health Commissioner Jim Luken and his staff have been waiting for this day for weeks. Today marks the first time that the Health District can offer H1N1 vaccine to everyone. “We are ready to vaccinate anyone and everyone,” Luken said. “This is what we designed the clinic to do – to vaccinate thousands of people. We’ve been waiting for the Ohio Department of Health to give locals the OK – and now we have that.” To date, the Health District has held fourteen H1N1 clinics and has given 10,000 vaccinations. All of those clinics were open to children and high-risk groups only. Now everyone can come to the clinic to be vaccinated regardless of age or health condition.

The Health District will hold the first of many H1N1 vaccination clinics open to everyone beginning today from 1pm until 7pm at the old Steve and Barry’s store at the mall in Piqua. The clinic will also be open on Tuesday from 1pm until 7pm. H1N1 vaccine is completely free at the Health District’s clinic.

The Health District has plenty of vaccine and they are advising against lining up outside the clinic before it opens. “It’s cold and there really isn’t a reason to stand outside,” said Luken. “We have lots of vaccine and we will schedule more clinics each week that will be open to everyone.” Although the clinic is now open to everyone, high-risk people, such as pregnant women and everyone under 24 years old, are still strongly encouraged to come out and get the vaccine.

Luken said that his staff is ready for a big rush of people who want to get the vaccine. “It might sound funny, but we are looking forward to a large group of people wanting to get the vaccine,” Luken said. “We are ready and willing to do whatever it takes to keep people healthy and safe throughout the entire flu season.” The flu season usually runs through March and has several peaks in the number of cases. “This is still the perfect time to get the vaccine,” said Luken.

For more information about the H1N1 flu and the upcoming vaccination clinics, visit the Health District’s website at www.miamcountyhealth.net or call 937-440-8105.