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Public Information Release

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H1N1 Clinics to be Open to All Soon

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Starting Monday December 14th and Tuesday, December 15th, the Miami County Health District will open up their H1N1 (Swine Flu) clinics to anybody who wishes to get vaccinated. This not only includes the priority groups, but all people regardless of age or medical condition.

All clinics will be held at the old Steve and Barry's location in the Miami Valley Centre Mall in Piqua. It is located just west of Interstate 75. The clinic hours will be from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. both days. Vaccines are still available from most OB/GYNs and pediatricians. It is unknown when it will be available in pharmacies. There is no shortage of H1N1 vaccine locally.

There are two types of vaccinations, FluMist and the familiar shot. The FluMist comes in a small atomizer and is sprayed into the nose. The shot is, well, a shot into the muscle of the arm with a very small needle. Most adults don't feel a thing.

What about safety of the H1N1 vaccine? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an agency of the federal government, maintains a system for reporting and analyzing adverse reactions to vaccinations. Now that there has been nearly two months of vaccinations given to millions of people, there is now some history with the vaccine. As of November 24, 2009, the number and types of adverse reactions to the H1N1 vaccine have been very low, a few per million, nearly the same as it has been for seasonal flu vaccinations. And the number and types of monitored health events have been occurring with the same frequency as those people who have NOT gotten vaccinated.

Booster doses are still available for those children under the age of ten who receive their first dose on or before November 10th. All people, regardless of grouping, can be accommodated at the open clinics. We still want to make sure that those in the younger age groups get the vaccine, too.

The H1N1 vaccine is not a substitute for the seasonal flu vaccine. The H1N1 vaccine will not protect you from the seasonal flu. Those persons over the age of 65 or who have chronic medical conditions that have not gotten the seasonal flu shot should still seek it when it becomes available.

Vaccinations at all public health clinics are free.

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