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Public Information Release

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Volunteers Needed for H1N1 Clinics

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Miami County will open a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) at the Troy Senior Citizens' Center on Tuesday, October 20 from 6pm to 9pm to sign up volunteers willing to help out at H1N1 clinics. The VRC provides the public with a way to show their support for community needs when everyday systems are maxed out. "Volunteers are what make things like this successful," said Melette Bailey, Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator for the Miami County Health District.

Bailey said that the Health District is looking for all kinds of volunteers for their H1N1 clinics. "Of course we need medical professionals – but we also need non-medical people too." While the term VRC may be new, the concept is very straightforward. People interested in volunteering simply show up at the Senior Citizens' Center, get a description of the types of help needed, register to volunteer, and then wait for a call or email to help at the clinics.

The VRC is supported by the Health District, the Miami County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), the Senior Citizens' Center, and the Troy United Way. Kenny Artz, Miami County EMA Director, said that this is the first of several VRCs that will be held in Miami County. "It's been a while since we've needed this many volunteers for something in Miami County. I have no doubt in my mind that the citizens will come out and support their community," Artz said.

People often are hesitant to volunteer for clinics because of two reasons. First is because of liability reasons. Under the Ohio Revised Code 121.404 registered volunteers are granted limited liability protection. "Worries about liability shouldn't keep someone from volunteering. The law addresses it and they are protected," said Artz. Second is the worry about being around sick people. "That's an easy question to answer – sick people won't be at the clinic. Shots are only for well people, so only healthy people will be at the clinic," said Bailey.

The clinics will be held at the old Steve and Barry's store in the Miami Centre Mall in Piqua. According to Miami County Health Commissioner Jim Luken, no dates have been set yet for the H1N1 swine flu vaccination clinics since supply delivery is still up in the air. "We continue to tell Miami County residents that it will be the last part of October or first of November. It all depends on supply delivery," said Luken. "As soon as we know, you'll know." Luken did indicate that once clinics start, they will most likely be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and some weekends.



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Volunteers coming to the VRC at the Troy Senior Citizens' Center, located at 134 N. Market St. in Troy, need to be at least 18 years old and have a valid photo ID.

Question about the VRC can be directed to Shirley Swallow at 332-8561. For information about H1N1 vaccination clinics, visit the Health District's website at www.miamcountyhealth.net.

SIDEBAR

The Health District needs all kinds of volunteers – not just medical personnel. Here are examples of things that volunteers will be asked to do:

GREETER - *Welcome and direct clients towards vaccination lines. Maintain flow of lines.*

REGISTRATION - *Help with the completion of the registration form, answer general questions, and review for legibility. Remind clients to take Vaccine Information Sheets and Privacy Statements.*

MEDICAL - *Screen, vaccinate, answer questions after vaccination.*

SUPPLIES - *Restock vaccination supplies at each table.*

RUNNER/OTHER - *Keep vaccination area clean and neat, collect and remove paper trash as needed, observe those in post-vaccination waiting area.*