



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

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Health Officials Will Focus H1N1 Vaccination Efforts on Revised Target Groups

Kenosha – October 28, 2009 – After administering nearly 900 H1N1 vaccines during their second clinic Tuesday night at Tremper High School, the Kenosha County Health Department will be focusing their efforts on a new subset of the original target groups.

- Pregnant women
- Persons who live with or provide care for infants aged less than 6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers)
- Health-care and emergency medical services personnel **who have direct contact with patients or infectious material**
- Children aged 6 months **through 4 years**
- **Children and adolescents aged 5-18 years who have medical conditions that put them at a higher risk for influenza-related complications**

These target groups were revised due to limited amounts and types of H1N1 vaccine available to local health departments. It is to ensure that those individuals most at risk receive the vaccine during the next several weeks when the vaccine supply continues to fluctuate.

The Health Department has canceled their H1N1 vaccination clinic scheduled for this Saturday, October 31 at the Kenosha County Job Center, and has announced that all remaining previously scheduled clinics will be suspended until further notice. Clinics will resume as adequate supplies of vaccine are received.

“The Health Department would like to thank the community for their patience and flexibility while we make adjustments to our plans based on the revised target groups,” said Frank Matteo, Health Officer/Director. “We understand the public has had to wait in clinic lines and some have been turned away because they didn’t meet certain criteria. We are trying to get the vaccine to those most at risk first, and the general public will receive their vaccine once that is complete.”

Until then, individuals are encouraged to follow steps to help prevent the spread of flu (both seasonal and H1N1) in the workplace, schools and throughout the community. These include:

- Wash your hands **frequently**
- Stay home if you are sick
- Cover your cough and sneeze

People with flu-like symptoms should stay home from school, work and social gatherings until 24 hours after resolution of their fever. People are more contagious when they have a fever, so staying home during this time is especially important to not spread the flu to coworkers, friends or fellow students.

The Health Department encourages residents to access reliable sources for information and updates such as the following web sites:

<http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/dhs/Divisions/Health/>

<http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov>

<http://www.flu.gov/>

Or call the Health Department directly at (262) 605-6700 or (800) 472-8008.

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