



JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

dedicated to the prevention of disease and promotion of wellness for our community.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATES H1N1 VACCINATION PLAN

(OLATHE, KS – OCTOBER 1, 2009) The Johnson County Health Department (JCHD), in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), are following recommendations for the distribution of the H1N1 flu vaccine. With an approximate population of 540,000 individuals residing in the County and 200,000 of those individuals falling within H1N1 vaccination priority groups, JCHD understands the need to vaccinate targeted individuals as quickly and efficiently as possible. The plans include:

- Supplying vaccine to those that have shown an interest and ability to administer flu vaccine:
 - Hospitals
 - School districts
 - Childcare facilities
 - Pediatrician offices
 - OB/GYN offices
 - Family practice offices

- Once target groups have been vaccinated, JCHD will expand distribution to public providers.

The five target priority groups for initial vaccination are:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than six months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact
- All individuals six months to 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

Initial doses delivered will be nasal influenza vaccine. Certain groups are not eligible for this live vaccine. Those **eligible** are healthy individuals aged two to 49 and not pregnant. Additional supplies of vaccine are expected on a weekly basis, including inactivated influenza vaccine.

As always, JCHD recommends individuals to take these steps to help prevent getting the flu:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or sneeze into the bend of your elbow. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also effective.
- Stay home if you are sick for seven days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer.
- Get your seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccination when available.

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