



MEDIA RELEASE

UMATILLA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

200 SE Third, Pendleton, Oregon

Immediate Release

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Public Health Officials Report Change in H1N1 Vaccination Recommendations

Pendleton, Ore. – The H1N1 vaccine has been approved as a single dose vaccination for those who are 10 years of age and older. Individuals who are 6 months to 9 years will require two doses with a minimum of 21 days separating the doses. “The change in vaccine dosage and availability has changed how we plan to respond and meet our community’s needs.” Stated, Genni Lehnert, Administrator, Umatilla County Public Health.

Umatilla County Public Health will initially vaccinate emergency responders and medical providers. Mass vaccination clinics will be offered; in Hermiston, Milton-Freewater and Pendleton, for residents in the priority groups. Dates will be announced once an adequate supply of vaccine is received. “We are optimistically planning for that to occur sometime in November” stated Lehnert.

The 2nd dose of H1N1 vaccine for those 6 months to 9 years of age will be offered at the health department or by their pediatrician. Discussions are also occurring for plans to offer the 2nd dose of H1N1 vaccine; with parental consent, to children at school by a health department nurse. “Our goal is to vaccinate as many children possible and to assure that they receive both doses to be fully covered if they are less than 9 years old” stated Lehnert.

The reported priority groups to receive the H1N1 vaccine are as follows:

- Pregnant women;
- Household contacts of infants younger than 6 months;
- Health care and emergency services personnel;
- Individuals between 6 months and 24 years; and
- Those aged 25 years or older with underlying conditions that put them at high risk of complications from influenza.

In addition to the above priority groups, the state released on September 28, 2009 some additional priority groups to be vaccinated against the H1N1 virus:

- Front line state and local law enforcement officers and firefighters who have or are likely to have recurring physical contact with the public as a routine part of their usual work;
- Correctional personnel in state prisons, local jails, and juvenile correctional facilities who come in physical contact with adult or juvenile offenders;
- Public safety emergency telecommunicators including 911 and line dispatchers; and
- Active service members in the Oregon National Guard.

“There are some precautions that we are urging the public to take to protect themselves and others against seasonal and H1N1 viruses.” said Sherena Clements, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with Umatilla County Public Health.

1. Protect yourself and others by washing your hands often or using an alcohol based hand sanitizer if a hand washing facility is not available.
2. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or shirt sleeve, not your hand, when coughing or sneezing and discard tissue immediately in a waste container.
3. If you are ill stay home and avoid exposing others to your illness. Do contact your doctor if you have any concerns.

For more information regarding seasonal or H1N1 flu visit:

CDC website	www.cdc.gov
State of Oregon	www.flu.oregon.gov
Umatilla County	www.umatillacounty.net

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