



MEDIA RELEASE

UMATILLA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

200 SE Third, Pendleton, Oregon

Immediate Release

Date: 12-11-2009

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Oregon Public Health Say H1N1 Vaccine Available To Everyone

Pendleton, OR -- State health officials say all Oregonians who want to reduce their risk of H1N1 infection are now eligible to receive H1N1 influenza vaccine.

In a news release Friday morning, the Dr. Mel Kohn said "We have been hearing for some time that people outside the federally guided target group are very interested in getting vaccinated." This brings us to a point where all Oregonians can begin to receive vaccine. "While we continue to emphasize the importance of vaccination for the priority groups, especially children and pregnant women, we are going to begin to vaccinate the general population," said Umatilla County Public Health Administer Genni Lehnert. "Vaccination continues to be the best way to protect yourself from the H1N1 flu and slow the spread of this pandemic." H1N1 influenza activity has been widespread in Oregon in recent months and even though statewide monitoring has recently shown a decline in influenza-linked hospitalizations, this virus is expected to circulate throughout the winter months. The possibility also exists that another surge of H1N1 flu may follow the current one.

Umatilla County Public Health is holding several H1N1 vaccination clinics as follows:

Pendleton: December 19th 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pendleton High School Commons

For those that are unable to make the above mentioned date the health department will be open exclusively for H1N1 vaccinations on;

December 28th & 29th 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Health Department 200 SE 3rd St Pendleton
December 30th & 31st 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Health Department 435 E. Newport St. Hermiston

"There are personal protective measures that can be taken to reduce your risk of exposure to seasonal and H1N1 influenza." Stated Genni Lehnert, Umatilla County Public Health Administrator.

1. Protect yourself and others by washing your hands often or using an alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water 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.

For more information regarding seasonal or H1N1 flu visit:

CDC website www.cdc.gov
Umatilla County www.umatillacounty.net
State of Oregon www.flu.oregon.gov
State of Oregon Toll-Free H1N1 hotline 1-800-978-3040

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