



News...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2009
Contact: Eric Palmer
847/448-8085

CITY RECEIVES H1N1 VACCINES

EVANSTON, IL - The Evanston Health and Human Services Department is releasing its initial schedule for H1N1 vaccination clinics.

“We have received a small shipment of our order, and we believe it will be enough to open school based clinics and a few community clinics for the target groups who are most at risk from the virus,” said Evonda Thomas, Director of Health and Human Services. “The department has received about 5,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine in the multi-dose, injectable form and 5,000 nasal spray of the live attenuated vaccine.”

Director Thomas explained parents and others should be aware this supply is not Thimerosal-free. While the amount of Thimerosal currently contained in the vaccine the city is receiving is minuet, parents will need to make their own decisions. Thimerosal is a mercury-containing preservative used since the 1930's in some vaccines to prevent contamination.

Parents/guardians must have a signed consent form completed for children 18 and under in order for them to receive the H1N1 vaccination. Children under ten (10) years of age will need to have two doses of the vaccine, separated by 28 days. Recipients of the voluntary vaccination must be a student at the school offering the clinic for that particular scheduled day.

The initial vaccination clinics will follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, and include:

- Pregnant women;
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age;
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel (EMTs/paramedics);
- All people ages six (6) months through 24 years of age; and
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

Following the CDC guidelines, once the demand for vaccine for the prioritized groups have been met, the Evanston Health and Human Services Department will consider further distribution for the general public based on vaccine availability.

There is no charge for the H1N1 vaccinations at the Health and Human Services Department's clinics. Additional clinics will be announced as vaccine is received and dates are confirmed.

The school based and community clinic schedules will be posted on the Health and Human Services Department's website at www.cityofevanston.org/health. The department encourages anyone with questions about receiving the H1N1 vaccine to contact their healthcare provider. For more information about the H1N1 influenza clinics, call 847-866-2948 or 847 866-2962.

- END -