



Knox County Health Department
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H1N1 Influenza FluMist Vaccine Available

Knox County, IL – Knox County Health Department announced today that they will begin providing the H1N1 vaccine to County residents **FREE** of charge beginning on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. The Health Department will hold two H1N1 vaccine evening clinics scheduled Tuesday, October 20th and Wednesday, October 21st from 3:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the Health Department, 1361 West Fremont Street, Galesburg, Illinois 61401.

“At this time Knox County Health Department only has the FluMist; or LAIV (*live attenuated influenza vaccine*),” states Heidi Britton, Public Health Administrator for the Knox County Health Department. “This is only the first wave of our response to H1N1, we anticipate receiving further shipments of the H1N1 vaccine in the injectable form and will roll that out at a later date; however, it is unknown at this time when further shipments will be received.” Britton emphasizes, “The Health Department and its partners feel it is necessary to begin immunizing the community against H1N1 as soon as possible.”

The LAIV is approved only for individuals who are not pregnant and who have NO underlying medical conditions. The Health Department is following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and is only providing LAIV vaccine to identified priority groups at this time. These groups include:

- Individuals aged 2-24 years;
- Individuals aged 25-49 years of age who live or care for an infant younger than 6 months of age;
- Health care and emergency medical personnel.

Individuals who have received FluMist for seasonal flu are required to wait a minimum of 28 days prior to receiving H1N1 FluMist; those who received seasonal flu vaccine as a shot are not required to wait.

Individuals should continue to consciously practice preventative measures while waiting for flu vaccine to become available to them. For more information about the flu or flu shots, contact your doctor, the Knox County Health Department, or the IDPH flu hotline at 866.848.2094; 866.241.2138 (Spanish).