



Marion County OREGON

For immediate release: October 12, 2009

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Marion County Health Department Opens Department Operations Center

To support the response to H1N1 influenza, the Marion County Health Department opened their Departmental Operations Center (DOC) on October 12, 2009. The DOC contact information is (503) 584-4870. The DOC is open during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Marion County Health Department is still operating business as usual. All service areas are functioning as they would if there were no flu.

According to Public Health Division Director Pamela Heilman, "We are opening the DOC to continue to monitor influenza activity in Marion County, keep the public informed and coordinate the distribution of flu vaccine. Opening the DOC will help us be prepared to do our job better to protect the public's health."

The State of Oregon Public Health Division has already opened their Agency Operational Center and hotline at 1-800-978-3040.

Activities of DOC staff include daily review and coordination of vaccine distribution plans, public information announcements and monitoring the current spread of flu.

As a reminder, to keep healthy and to control the spread of H1N1 influenza, the Marion County Health Department recommends:

- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
 - If a tissue is not available, you may cough or sneeze into your elbow to avoid contaminating your hands
- Stay home if you are sick
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Get vaccinated for both seasonal and H1N1 flu as soon as the vaccine is available to you

For more information, please visit one of the websites below, or call the Oregon Public Health hotline at 1-800-978-3040.

<http://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/PH/Epid/flu/>

<http://www.flu.oregon.gov/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

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