



Marion County OREGON

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Marion County Health Department H1N1 Vaccination Plan

Like all other thirty-five counties in Oregon, Marion County Health Department (MCHD) began receiving and distributing H1N1 vaccine from the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) in early October 2009.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Oregon set guidelines regarding who should receive the vaccine first, but each county and tribe in Oregon is responsible for developing a vaccine distribution plan that best serves that county. People who should receive the first doses of the H1N1 vaccine are:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Children from 6 months through 18 years of age, young adults 19 through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza
- Frontline law enforcement and public safety workers

Each county has the flexibility to develop their own plan that best meets the needs of their citizens, taking into account the population and size of the county. Marion County Health Department has carefully crafted a plan that is believed to result in all Marion County citizens who wish to receive the novel H1N1 vaccine to be able to get it in a timely manner. "We are sending our initial shipments out to hospitals, health care providers, schools and emergency service providers," said Dr. Karen Landers, Marion County Health Officer. "Once everyone who is in a priority group has had access to the vaccine we will make it available to the general public through local area health clinics, pharmacies, and at the health department."

Parents of school children should watch their backpacks for notices about H1N1 vaccination clinics in local schools.

The 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine is expected to have a similar safety profile as seasonal flu vaccines, which have a very good safety track record. Over the years, hundreds of millions of Americans have received seasonal flu vaccines. The novel H1N1 vaccine is being made using the same manufacturing and approval process as seasonal flu vaccine. In addition, it has been tested on thousands of volunteers nationally with no serious side effects reported.

There is currently an increased level of flu activity compared to last year due to the circulation of the novel H1N1 virus. Children and young adults are the most affected. Between September 1 and October 12, 2009 three people in Marion County have been hospitalized with novel H1N1 influenza. There have been no deaths. According to the CDC flu is widespread in thirty-seven states, including Oregon.

It is not possible to say exactly how many people have or have had the novel H1N1 flu at any given time, because not everyone who becomes ill with the flu is tested. In the United States, only hospitalizations and deaths from novel H1N1 influenza are currently being reported. An updated case count of hospitalizations in the United States due to confirmed novel H1N1 flu is available on the CDC website.

Marion County Health Department has developed frequently asked questions, which are available at <http://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/PH/Epid/flu/>. For additional information, please visit one of the websites below, or call the Oregon Public Health hotline at 1-800-978-3040.

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

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

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