



Marion County
OREGON

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H1N1 VACCINE – UPDATE # 2

Marion County Health Department opened their phone bank on October 26th to help handle the large volume of calls for scheduling appointments for H1N1 vaccinations. We had ten employees answering phones. As of noon today, this week's allotted appointments for H1N1 vaccine at Marion County Health Department have been filled. The date to call again for appointments has not yet been set. The number of appointments is based on how many vaccine doses are available. We will set up appointments for the H1N1 vaccine as soon as we receive more vaccine.

We realize that some people may have gotten a busy signal when they called. "We understand how frustrating this may have been," said Health Administrative Services Manager Roy Deede. "We experienced a high volume of calls, and we answered them as efficiently as possible. This is an unusually challenging situation."

The vaccine is taking longer to manufacture than expected, so there is some delay in receiving the vaccine. "We appreciate everyone's patience," said Marion County Health Officer Dr. Karen Landers. "I'd like to remind everyone that there are simple things we can do right now that can help prevent the spread of flu:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Cover 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

At this time, the H1N1 vaccine is only being administered to people who fit into the priority groups designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The priority groups are:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months 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.

We understand how frustrating it is to wait in the face of limited vaccine; we appreciate your patience. Please continue to check our website for up-to-date information regarding the H1N1 vaccine in Marion County or call 503-584-4870.

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