



# **Marion County**

## OREGON

**For immediate release:** October 30, 2009

**Contact:** Judy Cleave (503) 361-2693; Tonya Johnson (503) 981-2459; Sandy Stewart (503) 361-2765

### **Marion County Health Department H1N1 Vaccination Appointments Update**

Marion County Health Department (MCHD) will receive another shipment of 2009 H1N1 vaccine and will open their phone bank at 8:30 a.m. on November 4, 2009 to schedule appointments.

“While we are saving some of the vaccine for public clinics, we are sending most of our vaccine out to hospitals, health care providers, schools and emergency service providers,” said Dr. Karen Landers, Marion County Health Officer. “Therefore, we encourage adults in the priority groups to contact their provider first to see if they can schedule an appointment with them.”

The MCHD is also working with local schools to help them plan vaccination clinics. Parents of school children should watch their children’s backpacks for notices about H1N1 vaccination clinics in local schools.

MCHD H1N1 clinics are meant to ensure that people without a medical provider or insurance have access to the vaccine. These H1N1 vaccine clinics are available by appointment only. People who are in one of the priority groups to receive the vaccine may call 503-584-4870 to schedule an appointment beginning November 4, 2009. MCHD appreciates people holding calls until November 4<sup>th</sup>.

The number of appointments will be based on how many vaccine doses are available. “At this time, the vaccine shipments are unpredictable,” explains Dr. Landers. “Scheduling appointments based on the number of vaccine doses we currently have is the best way to ensure that the people who have an appointment will get vaccinated. Eventually there will be enough vaccine for everyone who wants it; however, it will take some time.”

Priority groups to receive the H1N1 vaccine 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

Healthcare and emergency services personnel are also in a priority group. They should receive the vaccine from their employer.

Once everyone who is in a priority group has had access to the vaccine MCHD will make it available to the general public through local area health clinics, pharmacies, and at the health department. “We understand that people may be concerned about having to wait to get the vaccine,” expressed Dr. Landers. “We, too, are concerned and are doing everything we can to get the vaccine out to the community as soon as we receive it. We sincerely appreciate your flexibility and patience during this time of uncertainty.” For additional 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/>