



Marion County OREGON

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H1N1 Vaccine Available to General Public Beginning Monday, December 14

Beginning Monday, December 14, H1N1 flu vaccine availability will be open to all people six months and older. The H1N1 vaccine supply has increased enough that vaccination can be expanded beyond the initial priority groups. However, if you are in one of the previous priority groups and have not yet received the vaccine it is still important for you to schedule an appointment. "The best way to protect yourself from the H1N1 flu is to get the vaccine," says Dr Karen Landers, Marion County Health Officer.

Marion County's phone bank will open at 8:30a.m. on Monday, December 14 to fill the 1,000 appointments available at this time. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (503) 584-4870. **Anyone** who wishes to receive the vaccine may schedule an appointment with the Marion County Health Department. Appointments for both injectable and nasal spray vaccines will be available. Once these 1,000 appointments are filled the phone bank will close until more appointments are available.

Marion County Health Department is working with area pharmacies to have the vaccine available at pharmacies later next week. Pharmacies will charge an administration fee for the vaccine, but they are able to bill most private insurance providers, as well as Medicare and Oregon Health Plan. More details about this will be made available as they are worked out.

The vaccine continues to be distributed to local healthcare providers. People who are not able to schedule an appointment at the Health Department should check with their healthcare provider.

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/>

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