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Taney County Health Department



An Accredited Local Public Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2009

H1N1 and Seasonal Flu Vaccination Walk-In Clinic Scheduled

The Taney County Health Department will be hosting an H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccination clinic on Thursday, December 10, 2009 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Forsyth location. Appointments will not be necessary.

Until recently, the supply of H1N1 vaccine has been limited. The focus has been to ensure that priority groups defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have been followed. Those groups include pregnant women, healthcare workers, emergency responders, children 6 months to 18 years and parents or caretakers of children under the age of 6 months. In addition to these priority groups, now that more vaccine is available, priority groups are expanded to include anyone age 25-64 who has a chronic disease. A chronic disease is defined as anyone with illness related to heart, lung, kidney, diabetes, asthma, or compromised immune system. Children age 9 and under who received their first H1N1 vaccination dose may attend this clinic to receive the second vaccination if it has been at least 4 weeks since the first dose. Proof of the first dose, such as an immunization card, is required before the second dose will be provided.

“Even though the numbers of reported H1N1 flu cases are decreasing, we expect another wave of illnesses to occur in January or February at the same time we traditionally experience the peak of seasonal influenza,” said Robert Niezgoda, TCHD epidemiologist. “With this in mind everyone who qualifies for the H1N1 vaccination should take advantage of this clinic to protect their health.”

Seasonal influenza vaccine is now available for children and adults at the walk-in clinic on December 10. Children aged 6 months to 18 years of age are encouraged to be vaccinated against the seasonal flu. Other high priority groups that should get the seasonal influenza vaccine are: adults over age 65; someone who lives with, or cares for someone over the age 65; anyone who has a chronic illness including heart, lung, kidney, diabetes, asthma, or compromised immune system and their caregivers; and anyone who lives with or cares for children under the age of 6 months.

This year has been challenging to inform the public about the two types of influenza vaccine and the priority groups who should receive each type of vaccine. The goal for public health has been to reach the most vulnerable groups of individuals that require protection from the flu this year. The public has been very patient as we have worked through the process which is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding the clinic or if you qualify for one or both vaccines, please visit our website at www.taneycohealth.org or call the Forsyth office at (417) 546-4725 or the Branson office at (417) 334-4544.

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