



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY
Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—12/2/2009

COMMUNITY CLINIC FOR H1N1 VACCINATION: SATURDAY, DEC. 5TH, 10AM-4PM

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The Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department will hold its last H1N1 community vaccination clinic of the year this Saturday, December 5th. The clinic will be held at the UM Helena College of Technology from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

“We are still trying to get all the priority groups in the county vaccinated,” says Mike Henderson, Communicable Disease Control Division Administrator. “H1N1 has far greater impact on young people (under 25 years old) and adults under the age of 65. We’ve given over 3000 vaccinations to people under 25, but there are still thousands of children and young people in the county that have not been vaccinated. We are hoping that by scheduling a community clinic on a Saturday, we can reach more of this population.”

Henderson says there is enough H1N1 vaccine for anyone in the priority groups as defined by the Centers for Disease Control. The priority groups for H1N1 vaccine are:

- Pregnant women
- Household and caregiver contacts of infants less than 6 months of age
- People 6 months to 24 years
- People 25-64 years old with chronic medical conditions
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel

“Influenza outbreaks come in waves,” says Henderson, “and currently we are seeing fewer confirmed cases of H1N1 in the Helena area. A lull in influenza activity is a good time to get vaccinated, since you are then protected if another outbreak occurs.” Since it takes time for the body to build up immunity, people are not protected until about two weeks following their H1N1 flu shot.

The H1N1 vaccinations from the City-County Health Department are free of charge. If you are unable to attend the clinic on December 5th, appointments can be made to receive the vaccination during regular immunization clinic hours at the Health Department. Immunization clinic hours are M-W-F from 11am to 4pm.

For more information contact:

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Flu Information line, 457-8904

www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us