



Wicomico County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WICOMICO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WEEKLY H1N1 COMMUNITY UPDATE #2

(Salisbury, MD) Wicomico County Health Department (WiCHD) H1N1 Community Update: As of Wednesday, October 21, 2009 a total of 1000 doses of H1N1 vaccine have been received in total. Wicomico County has received 800 doses of intranasal H1N1 vaccine and 200 doses of the injectable vaccine that have been made available to the priority populations. Vaccine is being delivered each week on a regular basis however the amount of vaccine that will be arriving is not known ahead of time. Vaccination planning is underway and adjustments are made according to the amount received. The Health Department continues to focus planning efforts for the priority groups the CDC has identified which include, children, parents of children under 6 months old, pregnant women, medical and emergency first responders, adults with underlying medical conditions throughout the county. To date, 127 doses have already been distributed community wide and we anticipate administering an additional 300 doses by week's end. The Health Department is starting the school age vaccination efforts at Beaver Run and Fruitland Primary and will expand to reach public and private school age children in the jurisdiction over the next several weeks. In addition large childcare centers are also being offered onsite clinics.

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H1N1 Flu is present on Delmarva and is the primary strain of influenza that is currently affecting our area. Individuals who have already received vaccine for seasonal flu are not covered for H1N1 Influenza. H1N1 is a serious illness that in some cases has caused death in previously healthy individuals including children and adolescents. Prevention measures are vital to keeping our community healthy. Simple measures such as hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes are key. We encourage all citizens to educate themselves on the ways to protect themselves and their loved ones this flu season, and on the importance of getting vaccinated.

For additional flu information, please call 211 the local H1N1 Resource Hotline or visit www.wicomicohealth.org.

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Lori Brewster, M.S., APRN/BC, LCADS
Health Officer
October 21, 2009



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