

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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H1N1 Vaccine Available to Everyone

Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Damon T. Arnold announced that beginning Tuesday, December 15, 2009 , all Illinoisans will be eligible to receive an H1N1 flu vaccination. For the past few months the Hancock County Health Department has been vaccinating people that are the most at-risk for serious H1N1 flu illness. The health department has had numerous community-based walk-in clinics as well as, school-based clinics. The health department invites anyone who has not yet received an H1N1 Vaccination to get vaccinated to protect themselves from the H1N1 virus. A walk-in clinic will be held on Friday, December 18, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the health department. People may also make an appointment for Thursday, December 31 to get vaccinated. Children 9 years of age and younger should receive 2 doses of the vaccine at least 28 days apart. The first dose primes the immune system and the second boosts the immune system, therefore, providing optimal protection.

The flu is spread mainly through person-to-person contact when an infected person does not properly cover a cough or sneeze. Holiday travel and gatherings increase the opportunity for person-to-person contact, making it an ideal way for illness to spread. It is important for you to remember to travel only when feeling well, wash your hands frequently to prevent the spread of germs and cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve. For more information, contact the Hancock County Health Department at 217-357-2171.

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