



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More H1N1 Flu Vaccine available in North Georgia Health District

Dalton (GA) Dec. 1, 2009 — Health departments in the North Georgia Health District have received an additional shipment of H1N1 influenza vaccine of 19,000 doses comprised of both nasal spray and injectable forms of the vaccine.

Public health departments in Cherokee, Fannin, Gilmer, Murray, Pickens and Whitfield Counties will begin administering **the vaccine to residents who are in the *high priority groups** as follows:

The **Cherokee County Health Department** will begin administering H1N1 vaccine at a special H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic on Thursday, December 3 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Friday, December 4 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Annex Recreation Center, 7545 N. Main Street, Woodstock.

The **Fannin County Health Department** will begin providing H1N1 vaccine on Thursday, December 3 and on Friday, December 4 from the health department located at 95 Ouida Street in Blue Ridge. On these two days, the vaccine will be administered from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. On Monday, December 7, the health department will administer H1N1 vaccine the entire day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., including the noon hour.

The **Gilmer County Health Department** will begin administering H1N1 vaccine on Wednesday, December 2 in their clinic at 28 Southside Church Street in Ellijay during regular business hours, which are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The clinic closes for lunch from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

The **Murray County Health Department** will start providing H1N1 flu vaccine by conducting an H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic at the health department on Thursday, December 3 and Friday, December 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The health department in Murray County also has a limited supply of Seasonal Flu vaccine, which they will provide at that time. The Murray County Health Department is located at 709 Old Dalton-Ellijay Rd. in Chatsworth.

- more -

Cherokee: Canton (770) 345-7371 / Woodstock (770) 928-0133 Gilmer (706) 635-4363 Pickens (706) 253-2821

Fannin (706) 632-3023 Murray (706) 695-4585 Whitfield (706) 279-9600

The **Pickens County Health Department**, located at 60 Health Way in Jasper, began providing H1N1 flu vaccine today. They will continue to provide the vaccine each weekday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The **Whitfield County Health Department** will begin administering their doses of H1N1 flu vaccine by conducting a special H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic on Tuesday, December 8 and on Wednesday, December 9 at the health department located at 808 Professional Blvd. in Dalton from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

* **The five priority groups that are first to receive the H1N1 injectable vaccine**, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), include:

- Pregnant women
- Health care and emergency medical personnel
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months
- Anyone from 6 months to 24 years of age, and
- Anyone from 25 to 64 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza related complications

It is important to remember that children below ten years old who received their initial H1N1 vaccination require a second dose of the vaccine 28 days later. Health officials urge parents and guardians to take advantage of this opportunity to complete the H1N1 vaccination process for those children who are ready to receive their second dose.

The health departments will provide the vaccine at no charge to patients. However, an administrative fee may be charged through Medicare, Medicaid, and all third party insurance including State Health Benefit plans for United Health Care and CIGNA. Residents are asked to bring their insurance cards at the time of service. Service will be on a first come, first serve basis until the current vaccine supply is depleted.

More information is available by calling local county health departments (phone numbers are below), by going online to www.nghd.org or by dialing Georgia's toll-free Flu Hotline at 1-888-H1N1-INFO (1-888-4161-4636).

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