

H1N1 Vaccination Plans for Mills County

Increased quantities of H1N1 vaccine are beginning to arrive here in Mills County. Mills County Public Health and all area providers are required to follow CDC guidelines, which state the H1N1 vaccine should first be made available to the following priority groups:

- pregnant women,
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- health care and emergency medical services personnel
- persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age, and
- adults aged 25 through 64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications

Sheri Bowen, Mills Co. Public Health Administrator advises that shipments of the H1N1 vaccine are slowly increasing, but are still relatively small. “We are asking that people who fit into one or more of these categories call our office at 712-527-9699 or email debmeier@mcph.us to leave your name, telephone number, date of birth, and the priority group you fit into so that we can call you when the appropriate type of vaccine is available or schedule you for an appointment at our next clinic opportunity”, Bowen stated. “Additional screening questions will be asked to ensure the available vaccine is appropriate for you or your child. Walk-ins will be discouraged, as vaccine availability cannot be guaranteed.”

Vaccine is available through multiple sites in Mills County including Alegent Health Clinic, Glenwood Physicians Clinic, Robert K. Fryzek, M.D., Medicap Pharmacy and Ruffner Pharmacy. An administration charge should be expected through any of these providers. Those individuals without health insurance or the means to pay for the administration fee are welcome to schedule appointments through Mills County Public Health at no cost. Public Health has provided 3 clinics opportunities for appointment-only vaccine administration with over 550 individuals served and anticipates holding clinics on a regular basis.

In addition, it remains important to take personal actions to prevent the spread of the virus:

- Cover your cough,
- Clean your hands, and
- Contain germs by staying home when ill.

Up to date information about Mills County’s H1N1 Vaccine status as well as Seasonal Flu Vaccine updates are available on the Mills County Public Health website, www.mcph.millscoia.us. A statewide toll-free hotline has been established for public questions about seasonal and H1N1 influenza at 1-800-447-1985. More information can also be found at www.idph.state.ia.us.

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