



Allen County Health Department

David L. Rosebrock, MPH, Health Commissioner
219 East Market Street
P.O. Box 1503
Lima, Ohio 45802-1503
<http://www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org>



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Public Health Flu Update

From: David Rosebrock, MPH
Health Commissioner
Phone: 419-228-4457

Update as of September 24, 2009

- Activity Update – Allen County
- 2009 H1N1 Vaccine (Swine flu vaccine)
- Seasonal Influenza (Flu) Vaccine
- Community Guidance

Activity Update for Allen County:

- More schools are reporting absenteeism figures to the Health Department. This helps us establish baseline rates and monitor our local situation.
- Flu activity is increasing in most of the United States. Almost all of the influenza viruses identified so far are 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses.

2009 H1N1 Vaccine (Swine flu vaccine)

- We anticipate that vaccines to prevent the 2009 H1N1 flu will start to become available in mid to late October and doses are expected to continue to become available through December.
- No shortage of 2009 H1N1 vaccine is expected, but vaccine availability can be unpredictable and there is some possibility that initially, the vaccine will be available in limited quantities.
- The initial target groups for vaccination are those at highest risk for complications from H1N1:
 - pregnant women,
 - persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months,
 - health-care and emergency medical services personnel,
 - children and young adults aged 6 months–24 years, and
 - persons aged 25–64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.
- The Health Department is planning now with schools, colleges, and physicians so we can vaccinate our residents at highest risk as soon as we can. Our vaccination program will be voluntary.

Seasonal Influenza (Flu) Vaccine

- Who should get a seasonal flu shot? The highest risk individuals are:
 - Adults age 50 and older
 - Children from 6 months through 18 years of age
 - Pregnant women
 - People with long term health problems such as heart disease, diabetes or asthma, weakened immune systems, or muscle or nerve disorders.

Others at high risk include:

- Children age 6 months -18 years on chronic aspirin therapy
 - Household contacts and caregivers of children under age 5, AND
 - Household contacts of people at risk – again, those over age 50 or with long term health problems that put them at risk for complications from the flu
- Don't wait – get your seasonal flu shot now. Check with your healthcare provider or watch for seasonal flu shot opportunities in the community. A [flu shot clinic locator](#) is available on-line.

Community Guidance:

- Stay informed. At this point, information is still changing rapidly and we will keep the community informed as information becomes available.
- Younger people are more likely to get infected with the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus than those aged 65 years and older. Therefore, younger persons are recommended to receive the first available doses of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine before persons aged 65 years and older.

We have more information on our website (see below) with links to the state and CDC.

For more information about H1N1 (Swine) Flu:

- Allen County Health Department website: http://www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org/know_what_to_do.htm
- CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and CDC Information Line: 1-800-CDC-INFO
- “Ask the Expert” – available through the *flu.gov* website: <http://www.flu.gov/faq/ask.html>
- Ohio Department of Health: www.odh.ohio.gov Ohio H1N1 (swine) Flu Information Line: 1-866-800-1404