



**Public Health**  
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Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2009**

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT HOLDING PANDEMIC H1N1 FLU CLINIC** *FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE TO PRIORITY GROUPS BY APPOINTMENT*

**FREDERICK, MD --** The Health Department announced in a briefing this morning that it is holding a pandemic H1N1 flu vaccination clinic for those within the priority groups on November 6, 2009. Due to the Health Department's limited supply of vaccine, **appointments are required**. For purposes of efficiency, appointments will be taken by a call center company under contract with the Health Department.

**WHAT:** Pandemic H1N1 Flu Vaccination Clinic

- Only the injectable (flu shot) form of the vaccine is available.
- Thimerosal-free vaccine is available for pregnant women only.
- Cost: FREE (Note: Those community healthcare providers offering the vaccine to their patients may charge a fee to administer the vaccine).

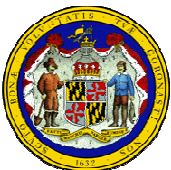
**WHO:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that certain groups receive the first available doses of pandemic H1N1 flu vaccine. Priority groups are those people at higher risk of coming in contact with H1N1 flu, infecting young infants who are not able to get the vaccine, or developing health complications if they do get sick.

**Priority groups for vaccine:**

- Children and young adults ages 6 months through 24 (**Children under 6 months are NOT eligible to receive either form of the vaccine**)
- Pregnant women
- People age 25-64 with chronic health conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease or a weakened immune system)
- Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel

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**WHEN:** November 6, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- The Appointment Line will be available Wednesday, November 4, 2009 from 9:00 am- 9:00 pm (the line may close earlier if all appointment slots are filled).
- H1N1 Flu Vaccination Appointment Line: **877-628-2392**
- Total appointments available: 800 (500 flu shots and 300 thimerosal-free flu shots for pregnant women only).
- We ask for your patience if call volume is high.
- When all appointment slots are filled, the phone line will not be answered and callers will hear a message indicating that all appointments have been scheduled.

**WHERE:** Church of the Redeemer (old Circuit City building) located at 5606 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, MD (behind Sam's Club). **Please note:** People will be vaccinated according to their appointment time, so there is no need to arrive early.

The current demand for vaccine exceeds what we currently have available. We recognize that this is frustrating. The Health Department shares this frustration and assures the community that many more clinics will be offered as soon as we receive more vaccine. Regrettably, the delay in distribution has resulted in uneven availability. We are unable to predict when or how much vaccine we will receive from day to day, but we anticipate receiving significant quantities in the coming weeks. We sincerely thank the public for your patience and understanding.

### **Appointment System**

The appointment system is an efficient, user friendly means of scheduling flu vaccinations at a time when supplies are limited. The number of appointments made will equal the number of doses available. We expect this system will reduce, but not completely eliminate, wait times so please dress appropriately for the weather.

### **Pregnant Women and Thimerosal**

Although there is no evidence that thimerosal causes harm (a mercury containing preservative added to multidose vials to prevent contamination), in order to accommodate patient preferences, there will be vaccine available in single-dose preservative-free units for pregnant women. The CDC recommends that pregnant women receive influenza vaccine, whether it's with or without thimerosal.

### **Pandemic H1N1 Intranasal Mist Flu Vaccine**

The Health Department is currently using the pandemic H1N1 intranasal mist flu vaccine for the in-school vaccination clinics (pre-k thru 5<sup>th</sup> grades). Children in this age group are a priority for receiving pandemic H1N1 flu vaccine and, except in cases where it's contraindicated, are eligible to receive the vaccine in the intranasal mist form.

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### **Additional Pandemic H1N1 Flu Clinics**

The Health Department will announce additional pandemic H1N1 flu clinics in the future. When sufficient quantities of vaccine become available, our goal is to offer clinics weekly. Once demand for vaccine for the priority groups has been met, the goal is to then vaccinate all people in the community ages 25 through 64. (Current studies indicate that the risk for infection among persons age 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. For this reason, people 65 and older are asked to wait to receive pandemic H1N1 vaccine until demand for vaccine in the priority and younger age groups have been met). We eventually expect to have enough vaccine later in the season to offer it to anyone who wants it.

For additional information about pandemic and seasonal flu and dates for future clinics, please see the Health Department's flu information webpage at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/flu](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/flu). You may also call the Health Department flu information line at 301-600-3035.

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