

H1N1 Vaccines Open to All

Harrison County Home & Public Health has announced that H1N1 vaccinations are now available to all residents. Allocations of H1N1 vaccine have increased statewide; this makes it possible to expand the people eligible to be vaccinated past the initial target priority groups to the general population.

While H1N1 vaccine is now available to all residents, Harrison County Public Health continues to encourage those at highest risk of complications to make sure they are vaccinated. “We also remind parents that children who are 9 years of age and under should be sure they receive two doses of the H1N1 vaccine to provide complete protection against the virus,” said Nicole Carritt, Administrator.

Statewide, influenza activity continues to decrease; however, H1N1 continues to circulate in Harrison County and throughout Iowa. Public health officials predict another wave of H1N1 illness will occur after the holidays, coinciding with what is typically the time Iowa sees the highest rates of seasonal flu activity – January and February.

“Being immunized as soon as possible will give Harrison County residents protection against this possible third wave of H1N1 illness,” said Carritt. “It will also prevent the spread of the virus to others.”

A statewide toll-free hotline has been established for public questions about seasonal and H1N1 influenza at 1-800-447-1985. More information about H1N1 vaccination sites may be found at www.idph.state.ia.us/webmap/default.asp?map=h1n1_vaccine_sites.

Residents are also reminded that seasonal flu vaccine is available at the public health office to all ages. For more information call 712-644-2220 or go to www.harrisoncountyyia.org/publichealth/index.html.

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