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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Phone and online signups begin tomorrow for added H1N1 vaccination clinics**

*KCHD will continue to focus on priority groups on December 12*

(Grand Rapids, MI) – The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) announces an additional clinic date for H1N1 influenza vaccination. Vaccinations will be offered by appointment only from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 12, at KCHD’s Fuller Avenue and Franklin Street clinic locations.

The sign-up process for these clinics has changed slightly from the last vaccination effort, allowing for online reservations. Phone reservations will continue to be an option, but only during set hours. People may sign up any time online at [www.sticktototheflu.com](http://www.sticktototheflu.com) or by calling 2-1-1 or (616) 459-2255 from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays.

The December 12 clinics will only offer vaccine to people in certain priority groups. The health department does expect to be able to offer vaccine more widely in the near future, pending approval from the Michigan Department of Community Health. Those in the priority groups include Kent County residents who meet one of the following criteria:

- Are between 6 months and 24 years of age, including children under age 10 seeking a second dose (or “booster” shot) and who were vaccinated at least 21 days prior to the clinic date (i.e., on or before November 21). Note: Children who received the FluMist for the first dose must wait at least 28 days if they would like to receive the FluMist again. Otherwise, they may receive their booster in shot (not a nasal inhalant) form.
- Take care of a child under 6 months of age
- Are pregnant
- Are health care workers who provide direct patient care or who are first responders (EMS, fire, police)
- Are between the ages 25 and 64 and have a health condition associated with a high risk of medical complications from influenza. Conditions include chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, cognitive, neurologic/neuromuscular, hematologic, or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus) and immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications such as prednisone or by HIV).

KCHD held H1N1 flu vaccine clinics on three Saturdays in November. Clients and staff reported that the reservation system allowed for a smooth and efficient experience, with very brief wait times. Health Department staff expect that the upcoming clinic will operate just as efficiently. So far, Kent County has received approximately 136,400 doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine. Local healthcare providers have received a

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large portion of vaccine to vaccinate their patients who fall into the priority groups. Anyone who belongs to one of the target groups and who would like to be vaccinated against novel H1N1 influenza should contact their health care provider to see if the provider plans to offer the vaccine.

As vaccine becomes more widely available, KCHD will provide information on how to get vaccinated on its web site, [www.stickittotheflu.com](http://www.stickittotheflu.com). Those wishing to be vaccinated are encouraged to check the site often, and exercise patience as local care providers and the health department strive to protect Kent County residents through distribution of vaccine, a powerful public health tool.

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