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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Kent County Opens H1N1 Vaccination Effort to All Residents**

(Grand Rapids, MI) – The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is now offering the H1N1 flu vaccine to all Kent County residents who would like to be vaccinated. Over the last few months, only people in certain priority groups have been eligible to be vaccinated, as Kent County strived to reach those at highest risk for complications from H1N1 influenza, and dealt with limited supplies of vaccine.

“Thanks to the swift response from local health care providers and public health, individuals in the high risk groups have had ample opportunity to be vaccinated, and many have been seized that opportunity,” said Cathy Raeovsky, Administrative Health Officer for KCHD. “At the same time, we are hearing more people outside of those groups asking for vaccine. We feel that this is the right time to offer H1N1 vaccine to all of our residents.”

More than 6,000 appointments are available for the next vaccination opportunity at KCHD. Vaccinations will be offered by appointment only from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 12, at two KCHD clinic locations: the main clinic at 700 Fuller Ave. NE and the Sheldon clinic at 121 Franklin Ave. SE, both in Grand Rapids. People may sign up any time online at [www.sticktototheflu.com](http://www.sticktototheflu.com). Appointments also are being taken by phone at 2-1-1 or (616) 459-2255 from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

So far, Kent County has received approximately 136,400 doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine for its 605,000 residents. Local healthcare providers have received the vast majority of this supply to vaccinate their patients who fall into the priority groups. Anyone seeking vaccination can also contact their health care provider to see if their provider plans to offer the vaccine. If the provider does not plan to offer vaccine, any Kent County resident may make an appointment for KCHD’s December 12 clinic. Please check [www.sticktototheflu.com](http://www.sticktototheflu.com) for announcements of future novel H1N1 vaccination clinics.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to the whole of Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and the Westside of Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD and our services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health). Follow us at [twitter.com/kchd](https://twitter.com/kchd) and search for us on facebook.

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