



Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County

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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

**TO: Mattawa Media
Grant County Healthcare Emergency Alliance
- Mattawa area participants**

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Grant County Health District will assure Mattawa clinics get additional doses of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

The Wahluke School District has declined to have the Grant County Health District complete the administration of 1st doses of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine to students. Public Health staff will be returning to Wahluke schools on December 16, 2009 to complete 2nd doses for approximately 460 students who are 9 years old and younger.

To ensure that students are able to get the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, the Health District has allocated additional doses of the vaccine to Mattawa Community Medical Clinic and Wahluke Family Health Center, shipments anticipated to be delivered early this week. Even though the recent outbreak appears to be declining, it is likely that there will still be 2009 H1N1 cases and some outbreaks in Grant County communities; parents are encouraged to contact their Healthcare provider as soon as possible to schedule an appointment.

At this time, only people in the follow priority groups may get the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

- Pregnant women** because they are at higher risk of complications, and a *vaccinated* mother will be less likely to infect her newborn.
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months** of age because infants are at higher risk of flu-related complications and cannot be vaccinated.
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel** because infected healthcare workers can infect patients.
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age**; those under 5 are at *highest risk*.
 - **Children from 6 months through 18 years of age.** There have been many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in children; they are in close contact with each other in school and child care settings.
 - **Young adults 19 through 24 years of age.** There have been many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in these healthy young adults; they often live, work, and study in close proximity and they are a frequently mobile population.
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions** associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

Public Health officials are optimistic that before long the vaccine will be made available to anyone wanting the vaccine.

Besides getting your seasonal and 2009 H1N1 flu vaccines, you can take the following actions to stop the spread of the flu and other illnesses:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Use tissues and throw them away after each use.
- Wash your hands often; if using hand sanitizers in between hand-washing, pay attention to cleaning your fingertips.
- Stay home if you are ill. Don't go to work.
- Children should not attend child care or school if they are ill.
- Keep 6 feet between yourself and people who appear to be sick.

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