



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

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**Grant County Health Officer:  
2009 H1N1 Vaccine now recommended  
in Grant County to all over the age of 6 months**

The 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine has been restricted to priority high risk groups since its release this fall. 2009 H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine is now arriving in Washington State communities daily. In Grant County, people in the high risk groups who want to be vaccinated have been and the demand among them is dropping.

Because of the increased vaccine supplies and the success of vaccinating those in the priority groups, the Grant County Health Officer has issued a **recommendation to immediately expand 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccinations in Grant County to all individuals 6 months of age and older who wish to be vaccinated.** Healthcare providers and pharmacies may begin vaccinating the general public but are asked to continue their efforts of reaching out to the ACIP priority groups because they are at highest risk for getting infected with the virus.

This decision was made based on the regional and statewide trends and the general consensus reached with other health officers yesterday.

- The Health District has nearly completed the school-based 2009 H1N1 vaccination effort.
- The Health District staff have consulted with area healthcare providers and clinic vaccine coordinators. Most feel it is now appropriate to make the vaccine available to all.

“We had no choice but to require adherence to priority groups vaccinations at first because supplies were limited, sporadic and below what was initially promised to us,” stated Dr. Alexander Brzezny, Grant County Health Officer. “We appreciate the cooperation and understanding from our healthcare community. We are fully aware their phones have been ringing daily with anxious patients wanting the vaccine.” He added, “Even though we may have seen a second peak of the 2009 H1N1 influenza in our community in October, another peak is possible. We need to get as much 2009 H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccine into as many shoulders as possible and as soon as possible.” The vaccine supply in Grant County may vary from place-to-place but at least an additional 13,000 doses will be reaching the county by the end of January broken down into weekly allotments; there should be enough for all who want it.

Please, contact your health care provider for vaccination hours and locations. In addition to healthcare providers who registered as vaccine administrators, Moses Lake Safeway Pharmacy, Moses Lake Walgreens, Ephrata Safeway Pharmacy and Grand Coulee Safeway are now providing the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

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