

For Immediate Release - December 8, 2009

H1N1 Flu Vaccine Open To ALL

The numbers of H1N1 flu cases appear to be decreasing but that does not mean that flu season is over for this year. Flu pandemics, like H1N1, typically come in several waves and the regular winter flu season is just beginning.

Beginning the week of December 14, everyone will be able to receive the H1N1 flu vaccine. The individuals in the priority groups will continue to be eligible for vaccination, along with all other Ohioans who were not in the high-risk groups. *Clinics are scheduled at the Fulton County Health Department on December 15, 16, 22, and 29.* Call 419-337-0915 to schedule an appointment.

The holidays are one of the busiest travel times of the year,” said Michael Oricko, Health Commissioner. “People are in close contact – whether they’re on a plane, train, ship or just visiting with loved ones. The Fulton County Health Department wants to provide practical advice to help travelers prepare for their trips and stay healthy during their holiday travel.”

CDC is urging people to take the following steps when planning their travel and to stay informed about what to do if they get sick while they’re gone, including:

- Traveling only when they are feeling well
- Getting vaccinated for flu (both seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1)
- Washing hands often
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve

“We know that flu – and specifically H1N1 this year – is a big concern for people, but flu shouldn’t ruin the holidays,” Mr. Oricko said. “By practicing a little prevention, people can enjoy their holidays and stay well at the same time. The opportunity for all to be vaccinated couldn’t come at a better time.”