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News Release

H1N1 Flu Vaccine for Pregnant Women

Kingsford, Michigan – October 26, 2009. The 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine is now available for pregnant women at their prenatal care providers and the Dickinson Iron District Health Department.

It is important for a pregnant woman to receive the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine as well as the seasonal influenza vaccine. A pregnant woman who gets any type of flu is at risk for serious complications and hospitalization. Pregnant women who are otherwise healthy have been severely impacted by the H1N1 virus. In comparison to the general population, a greater proportion of pregnant women infected with the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus have been hospitalized. In addition, severe illness and death has occurred in pregnant women. Six percent of confirmed fatal 2009 H1N1 flu cases thus far have been in pregnant women while only about 1% of the general population is pregnant. While hand washing, staying away from ill people, and other steps can help to protect pregnant women from influenza, vaccination is the single best way to protect against the flu.

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