

To: Local Media

Date: October 9, 2009

Subject: H1N1 Vaccine

Contact: Linda Piper @ 906-774-1868

First Shipment of H1N1 Vaccine Expected

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department expects to receive a small, first shipment of H1N1 vaccine next week. This first vaccine is in the form of a nasal spray and can be used in healthy people 2 - 49 years of age, who are not pregnant. It is expected that injectable H1N1 vaccine will begin to arrive in the next week or two.

The Centers for Disease Control has recommended that the following groups receive vaccine first: pregnant women, household contacts of infants under 6 months of age, children and young adults 6 months to 24 years, adults 25-64 years with certain health conditions and healthcare/emergency services personnel. Although initially supplies of vaccine will be limited, the CDC expects that very quickly, supplies will be adequate to vaccinate everyone who would like to be vaccinated.

Adults and children 10 years and over will need only one dose of H1N1 vaccine while children under 10 years will need two doses for good immunity. Every year the seasonal flu shot is adjusted to include the most common flu strains circulating around the globe. This H1N1 vaccine is simply a strain change in the usual flu shot "recipe" and is expected to be just as safe and effective.

Hospitals and clinics providing healthcare for young children will receive vaccine from this first shipment. Additional vaccine will be distributed to hospitals, obstetricians and primary healthcare providers. The Health Department will be offering vaccination clinics in area schools and colleges, as soon as larger quantities of vaccine are made available. Parents are asked to watch for information that will be coming home soon with their student.

If you are in one of the groups listed above, please watch for more news about vaccine availability. For questions about vaccine you may contact your healthcare provider or the Dickinson-Iron District health Department at 906-774-1868 or 906-265-9913.

###