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*Mass Influenza Vaccination Clinic Planned in Dickinson
County
Health Department, DCHS and VA Medical Center Plan for October
2005 Event*

Kingsford, Michigan – September 1, 2005. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is currently working with Dickinson County Healthcare System and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center to plan a Fall 2005 mass influenza vaccination clinic. The purpose of the clinic is to exercise and test the health department's ability to organize and operate a Neighborhood Emergency Help Center, a major component of the Modular Emergency Medical System. Important public health emergency response functions that will be tested include the ability to disseminate health and safety information to the public via risk communication protocols, redundant systems of communication, dissemination of information to the public with response partners, and exercising the health department's first responder dispensing plan.

The health department's dispensing plan includes major components of a mass vaccination plan. The objectives of the mass vaccination clinic will be to evaluate the coordination between the health department, community partners and volunteers to vaccinate the public during an emergency involving a communicable disease. All of these responsibilities will be exercised through an organized mass vaccination clinic where influenza vaccine will be administered.

Subject to the availability of flu vaccine, the clinic will be set up on October 29, 2005 at the Kingsford Middle School to vaccinate approximately 1200 people in a five hour period. The health department, DCHS, and VA Medical Center wish to inform area health care providers of this plan and ask that they support this effort by referring interested vaccine recipients to the scheduled event.

During the exercise, volunteers will be needed to assist in the mass vaccination clinic setting. Various clinic positions are available for both medical and non-medical volunteers. Training will be provided for each clinic position.

Additional detailed information will be released in the near future. Anyone with questions concerning the event or those who would like to volunteer can contact Sheila McNulty, DIDHD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, at 906-779-7205 or samcnulty@hline.org.

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