

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 14, 2009

The Dubois County Health Department will hold an **H1N1 Influenza Live Nasal Mist vaccination clinic on Friday, October 16, 2009 from 8-11am and 1-3pm** at the office, located at 1187 South St. Charles Street in Jasper.

This clinic is for **only**:

- **Healthy, non-pregnant healthcare workers and emergency medical service providers 49 years and younger**
Health-care personnel (HCP) include all persons working in health-care settings who have the potential for exposure to patients with influenza, infectious materials, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, or contaminated environmental surfaces. HCP include physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, technicians, emergency medical service personnel, dental personnel, pharmacists, laboratory personnel, students and trainees, and persons (e.g., clerical, dietary, housekeeping, maintenance, and volunteers) not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious agents. Emergency medical services personnel might include persons in an occupation (e.g., emergency medical technicians and fire fighters) who provide emergency medical care as part of their normal job duties.
- **Healthy, non-pregnant people ages 2-24.** Written parental consent must be provided for children under the age of 18.

Certain people **should not** get a nasal spray flu vaccine, including the 2009 H1N1 nasal spray vaccine. This includes:

- People younger than 2 years of age;
- Pregnant women;
- People 50 years of age and older;
- People with a medical condition that places them at higher risk for complications from influenza, including those with chronic heart or lung disease, such as asthma or reactive airways disease; people with medical conditions such as diabetes or kidney failure; or people with illnesses that weaken the immune system, or who take medications that can weaken the immune system;
- Children younger than 5 years old with a history of recurrent wheezing;
- Children or adolescents receiving aspirin therapy;
- People who have had Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), a rare disorder of the nervous system, within 6 weeks of getting a flu vaccine,
- People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs or who are allergic to any of the nasal spray vaccine components.

The Health Department received 400 doses of the H1N1 influenza nasal mist vaccine last week. It was distributed to health care workers. On Tuesday, October 13th, an additional 300 doses of H1N1 influenza nasal mist vaccine, 500 doses of injectable vaccine and 100 doses of thimerosal free injectable vaccine was received. The vaccine will be distributed to healthcare workers and pregnant women through healthcare providers.

When ample supplies become available, clinics will be held in the county schools. The Health Department will continue to allocate additional vaccine as it is received to the priority groups, including:

- pregnant women,
- persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers),
- health-care and emergency medical services personnel
- persons aged 6 months--24 years, and
- persons aged 25--64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

Over time, vaccine will be available for everyone. Clinics for the general public will be announced when scheduled.

As the incidence of influenza increases in the community, it is important to continue to practice good health habits:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or upper sleeve if tissues are not available.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Hand sanitizers made with alcohol are also effective.
- Stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except if you need to go out for medical care or other necessities,
- Get plenty of rest
- Drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids like water or juice.