

St. Joseph County Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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St. Joseph County H1N1 Vaccine Clinics

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY- Health officials announce H1N1 vaccine clinics to be held in November. The St. Joseph County Health Department continues to offer vaccine through the South Bend and Mishawaka Office locations on the listed dates and times, but has also scheduled after hour clinics the week of November 9th to accommodate those who are not able to come to the health department or their provider offices during the day.

The after hour clinics will be located in the County-City Building lobby located at 227 W Jefferson Blvd in South Bend on the following dates (see attached flyer):

- * Monday, November 9th 5-7 PM
- * Tuesday, November 10th 5-7 PM
- * Thursday, November 12th, 5-7 PM

These clinics are limited to individuals at highest risk for flu complications including:

- * pregnant women,
- * people who live with or provide care for infants younger than 6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and day care providers),
- * health care and emergency medical services personnel,
- * people 6 months through 24 years of age, and,
- * people 25 years through 64 years of age who have certain medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications

Individuals can bring completed consent forms with them to shorten time at the clinics. Consent forms available at:

<http://www.stjosephcountyindiana.com/departments/sjchd/index.htm>

Residents that fall within these target groups to first receive the vaccine may also call their health care provider about vaccine availability. H1N1 Influenza Vaccines from the Health Department are free of charge.

Children through 9 years of age should get two doses of vaccine, about a month apart. Additional vaccine will be available in increasing allotments in the upcoming weeks. The St. Joseph County Health Department continues to receive weekly shipments of novel H1N1 vaccine in St. Joseph County in limited quantities that is being distributed throughout our local health care provider networks and offered through the health department locations:

§ South Bend Location:

9th Floor County-City Building
227 W. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46601
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:30-11:00 a.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m.

§ Mishawaka Location:

County Services Building
219 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, IN 46544
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
8:30-11:00 a.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m.

As more vaccine becomes available, the St. Joseph County Health Department will continue to work with local providers and will be looking to host additional community clinics to reach the vaccine priority groups. Vaccine is first being targeted to priority groups who are at higher risk of disease or complications, those who are likely to come in contact with novel H1N1, and those who could infect young infants. Efforts to vaccinate all residents will occur once there is enough vaccine available for everyone.

"We wish we had enough of the H1N1 flu vaccine to vaccinate every Hoosier," said Dr. Monroe, Indiana State Health Commissioner. "However, everyone should be getting their seasonal flu vaccine as soon as possible." The St. Joseph County is currently out of seasonal flu vaccine; however residents can call the United Way 211 for information on additional seasonal flu vaccine availability in St. Joseph County.

St. Joseph County Health officials also recommend individuals practice other measures that can help protect against the flu by following the three C's: Clean your hands often, Cover your cough and sneezes, and Contain germs by steering clear of others who are sick and staying home if you are sick. Health officials also encourage other healthy habits such as getting plenty of sleep, eating nutritious foods, and drinking plenty of fluids.

For more information about influenza and the vaccine please call United Way 2-1-1, or visit the Indiana State Department of Health website at www.in.gov/flu. The Department will also be offering a toll-free hotline for the public to call for information on the H1N1 flu and its vaccine at: 1-877-826-0011 or TTY 1-888-561-0044.