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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WASHTENAW COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCES H1N1
VACCINATION CLINICS FOR PRIORITY GROUPS
H1N1 Vaccine Supply is More Limited than Anticipated**

YPSILANTI, Mich., Oct. 21, 2009 — The Washtenaw County Public Health Department is ramping up its H1N1 vaccine distribution plans in response to a limited vaccine supply and increased flu activity in the community. The H1N1 vaccine supply is only about 30% of what was expected by this time. Public Health is narrowing the priority groups to those most at risk and scheduling H1N1 vaccination clinics to reach these groups sooner, all in accordance to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The first opportunity for prioritized, high-risk individuals to receive H1N1 vaccine is Tuesday, October 27 from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Washtenaw Intermediate School District facility, 1819 S. Wagner Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. School-based H1N1 vaccination clinics for the redefined priority groups will begin on November 2nd, 2009.

Individuals within the following priority groups are currently eligible for H1N1 vaccination:

- pregnant women,
- household and caregiver contacts of children under 6 months of age,
- children 6 months though 4 years,
- children 5 to 18 years who have medical conditions associated with a higher risk of influenza complications, and
- health care and emergency medical services personnel who provide direct patient care.

“Given our limited supply, we have to concentrate on vaccinating those children and adults most at risk of complications,” says Richard Fleece, Health Officer for Washtenaw County Public Health. He said the Health Department hoped to have adequate vaccine to operate mass H1N1 vaccination clinics at public schools starting in November. Now, however, H1N1 vaccination clinics will begin earlier, but they will only offer vaccine to more specific priority groups.

School-based vaccination clinics for the redefined priority groups are scheduled to begin the first week of November. The amount of H1N1 vaccine actually available at these clinics will be smaller than anticipated. Dates and locations for the first week of November are as follows. Individuals prioritized for vaccinations should live, work or attend school within Washtenaw County; individuals do not need to live within the specified school district to attend the vaccination clinic.

H1N1 Vaccination Clinics for Prioritized Groups. Hours are while supplies last.

| Date | District | Location | Time |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Monday, November 2 | Ypsilanti Public Schools | Ypsilanti High School | 10:00 am to 8:00 pm |
| Tuesday, November 3 | Dexter Community Schools | Creekside Intermediate School | 10:00 am to 8:00 pm |
| Thursday, November 5 | Ann Arbor Public Schools | Huron High School | 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm |
| Friday, November 6 | Milan Area Schools | Milan High School | 11:00 am to 7:00 pm |

Limited amounts of H1N1 vaccine have been allocated to hospitals and enrolled health care providers with the expectation that providers can identify those most at risk among their patients.

The H1N1 influenza virus continues to circulate in our community. Reports of confirmed cases in Washtenaw County residents increased sharply for the week ending October 17, 2009. There are three new hospitalizations. Several school districts are reporting increased absenteeism. No schools have been closed in Washtenaw County, although there are closures in other parts of Michigan. No deaths due to the H1N1 virus have been reported in Washtenaw County.

It is important to continue promoting basic prevention strategies which can slow or stop the spread of illness:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Keep away from others as much as possible.

Updated information will be available by visiting www.ewashtenaw.org/flu. If individuals have more detailed questions about H1N1 influenza or vaccine, Public Health nurses and health educators are available to answer questions 734-544-6700. Callers who speak languages other than English may request translation.

For more information about Washtenaw County Public Health and local flu activity, please visit: www.ewashtenaw.org/flu. For more information about H1N1 activity nationally or about the CDC-identified priority groups, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.