



Genesee County Health Department

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<http://www.gchd.us>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 29, 2009
KILL DATE: November 1, 2009
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GCHD Announces a Third Nasal Spray Vaccine Clinic for the 2009 H1N1 Flu

The GCHD will hold a third nasal spray flu vaccine clinic for Genesee County residents in most need of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine (**note the location change**):

WHEN: Saturday October 31, 2009
10:00 am – 12:00 noon, **Walk-Ins Only.**

WHERE: Genesee County Health Department – McCree North Branch
115 E. Pierson Road, Flint, MI 48505

GCHD staff successfully vaccinated nearly five hundred residents at the first public offering of the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine on Tuesday evening, October 27, 2009. GCHD staff expects to vaccinate another five hundred today, Thursday, October 29, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Burton Branch of the GCHD located at G-3373 S. Saginaw Street, Burton, MI 48529.

The nasal spray vaccine is approved for use in people from 2 to 49 years of age who are not pregnant and who do not have certain health conditions (see below). But, because current vaccine supply is limited, vaccine will be provided **ONLY** to the following priority groups most in need of the vaccine:

- Children and young adults 2 through 24 years of age.
- People 25 through 49 years of age **ONLY** if they live with or care for infants less than 6 months of age.
- Health care or emergency **medical** personnel (under 50 years of age).

The novel H1N1 vaccine is free to all. Yet, clients with health insurance **must bring their insurance information** to receive flu vaccine at no cost. This includes Medicare Part B, Medicaid, and Health Plus.

The nasal spray vaccine cannot be given to people with the following health conditions:

- Pregnant women;
- People 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.

If you have concerns about the nasal spray form of the novel H1N1 flu vaccine, ask your health care professional if it is right for you and your family. You may also go to www.medimmune.com/h1n1.aspx for more information.

The vaccine supply is expected to increase with time. As the supply increases:

- The GCHD will schedule and announce additional special clinics for the novel H1N1 flu vaccine.
- More people will be eligible to receive the vaccine.
- Vaccine will become available in other public venues outside the GCHD such as pharmacies and school-located clinics.
- Novel H1N1 flu shots will be available as an alternative to the nasal spray form of the vaccine.

IMPORTANT NOTE: School-located clinics are also being planned in all of Genesee County's 21 school districts. School-located clinics will proceed as soon as enough vaccine is on hand to schedule them.

The GCHD recommends checking with your primary doctor to see if he or she will be providing the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine. The GCHD will post all public locations where the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine is available on its website and hotline. To view the website, visit www.gchd.us and click on "H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) Information and Updates." To reach the hotline, call (810) 257-3887.

END