



**McHenry County
Department of Health**

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People 65 & older encouraged to get FREE H1N1 vaccine

Woodstock IL – While people 65 and older were not included in the first groups to receive the earliest doses of the H1N1 vaccine, restrictions were lifted on December 10 so now everyone, including seniors, is encouraged to get vaccinated against the H1N1 virus. Vaccine supplies have increased dramatically making it easy to find places who are distributing H1N1. McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) has walk-in clinics Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4pm at its Woodstock (2200 N. Seminary Avenue) and Crystal Lake (100 N. Virginia Street) locations.

It is important to remember that the flu season is not over and is expected to continue for months. “It’s not too late to be vaccinated against H1N1, which remains a threat in our community,” states Patrick J. McNulty, Public Health Administrator. “The more people who are vaccinated, the less likely we’ll see cases of H1N1 should a third wave occur.”

While people 65 and older are less likely to be infected with the H1N1 flu, those that do become infected are at greater risk of having serious complications from their illness. There have been severe infections and deaths in every age group, including older people. Some outbreaks among older people living in long-term care facilities also have been reported. Influenza is unpredictable and can be a very serious disease for people 65 and older.

Vaccination is the best way to protect against the 2009 H1N1 pandemic virus. It is estimated that over 40, 000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine has been distributed in McHenry County by MCDH, local hospitals, health care providers, clinics, pharmacies and schools. For more information, visit www.mcdh.info or call 815-334-2800.

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“Working to prevent disease and promote health and safety for all people of McHenry County since 1966.”