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News from the Fairfax County Health Department:
H1N1 Vaccination Clinic, October 24 at Fairfax County Government Center
Open to Children 6-36 months, Pregnant Women

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a flu vaccine as the single best way to protect against influenza illness, including the 2009 H1N1 Influenza virus. Due to delays in the production of 2009 H1N1 vaccine, the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) has developed a mass vaccination plan that matches the limited supply of vaccine currently available, which is significantly less than anticipated. The Health Department currently does not have enough vaccine available to hold the vaccination clinics that were scheduled to be held in ten Fairfax County schools on October 24 and 25.

The Fairfax County Health Department will hold a mass vaccination clinic on Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035). Approximately 10,000 doses of 2009 H1N1 vaccine will be available on October 24. Based on the quantity of vaccine available, and in an effort to vaccinate those at high risk of influenza-related complications, the October 24 clinic will be open to all children 6 months to 36 months of age and pregnant women. Children in this age range and pregnant women are among the target groups identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine when it first becomes available. The vaccine is voluntary and will be offered on a walk-in basis, free of charge. Seasonal flu vaccine will not be available at this clinic.

The October 24 clinic will not be the only opportunity to receive 2009 H1N1 vaccine. The FCHD is committed to vaccinating target populations, including school-aged children, as quickly as vaccine becomes available. Depending on the quantities of vaccine available each week, vaccine will be distributed through the Health Department's district offices or mass vaccination clinics.

Updated information, about the availability and distribution of 2009 H1N1 vaccine, including consent form and vaccination information statements, is on the county's web site at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu/h1n1-vaccine-distribution.htm>

For more information, visit the county's flu information web page at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu/> or call the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-267-3511.

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