

Whiteside County Health Department

Press Release 9/9/09

Whiteside County Health Department is busy preparing for H1N1, a new influenza virus that has reached pandemic levels. In addition to washing your hands, covering your cough and sneezes and staying home when ill, an important defense against the H1N1 virus is to be vaccinated. The health department will be holding mass vaccination clinics starting in October.

Because H1N1 is a new virus, it targets younger people. Traditionally the seasonal influenza has targeted older people. The health department, in accordance with Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) guidance will be going to every school in Whiteside County to assure that all children receive the vaccine. Other priority populations include health care workers, pregnant women, children over 6 months of age through 24 years of age, parents of children under 6 months of age, and people up to 64 years of age with underlying medical conditions. After all the priority groups have been vaccinated, the health department will hold clinics for the general public. The H1N1 vaccine will be free from the Whiteside County Health Department.

The CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health recommends that all people receive the seasonal influenza vaccine, as well as the H1N1 vaccine. People can receive their seasonal influenza vaccine from their physicians, or at a variety of other clinics. The Whiteside County Health Department will be holding its first seasonal influenza clinic on Saturday, September 19th from 9 am -1 pm at the Rock Falls facility.

All area physicians, including CGH Medical Center and the Sterling/Rock Falls Clinic, join the Whiteside County Health Department in urging all Whiteside County residents to receive both the seasonal and H1N1 vaccine.