

October 29, 2009

H1N1 swing flu vaccine to be distributed at Charlotte County school Friday

The Charlotte County Health Department plans to begin H1N1 swine flu vaccination clinics for Charlotte County Schools beginning at 9 a.m. Friday at Murdock Middle School.

Small quantities of H1N1 vaccine have arrived from the federal government to begin vaccinations, though vaccination quantities in total for the county are far behind schedule.

"CCHD has taken the approach of waiting for vaccine to arrive before planning our community clinics, and we do plan to vaccinate everyone that wants it, it just may take a little longer depending on when vaccines arrive," said Donna Olson, MS, ARNP, Senior Community Health Nursing Director of the Charlotte County Health Department in a news release.

Once H1N1 vaccine arrives in sufficient quantity, free and voluntary vaccinations will be offered at points of distribution (PODs) throughout Charlotte County. High risk categories will be given first supply of the vaccine. These categories include:

- Children and young adults age 6 months through 24 years
- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months old
- Health care workers and emergency medical services personnel
- People age 25 through 64 who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza

The Charlotte County Health Department encourages everyone to review information about the H1N1 vaccine, and make an informed decision about receiving it. Vaccine Information Sheets (VIS) from the Center's for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), H1N1 vaccine consent forms and other H1N1 related information can be found at www.charlottechd.com/H1N1.

For more information on influenza activity there are a number of resources available such as:

- The Florida Department of Health information line, which is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Information is available in English, Spanish and Creole. The Florida Flu Information Line is 877-352-3581.
 - Florida Department of Health, www.doh.state.fl.us/DEMO/php/FluInfo.htm
 - My Safe Florida, www.myflusafety.com/
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/
 - Flu.gov, www.flu.gov
-