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**\*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*\***

Date: October 21, 2009  
Re: H1N1 Vaccine Availability

Dear Health Care Provider,

The Bay County Health Department is receiving incremental shipments of the H1N1 Influenza vaccine, as allocated weekly from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). Due to the limited amount of vaccine being delivered, we have to be diligent in distribution of the vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that certain groups of the population receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine when it first becomes available. These target groups include:

- **Health care and emergency medical services personnel**
- **Pregnant women**
- **Persons who live with or care for infants less than 6 months old**
- **Persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old, and**
- **Persons aged 25 through 64 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications**

Scheduling of vaccination clinics to reach these target priority groups **will be dependent upon the availability of vaccine** and weekly allocations/shipments to the Bay County Health Department from the MDCH. Persons who fall within the priority groups will be notified, through a variety of communication methods, *once clinic times and locations are determined*.

Additionally, once the vaccination program providers are meeting the demand for vaccine among the persons in the five initial target groups, vaccination will be expanded to **all** persons aged 25 to 64 years. This will be dependent on vaccine availability.

There has been very little H1N1 illness in people 65 year and older since the 2009 H1N1 virus emerged. Studies of who is most likely to be infected with 2009 H1N1 show that people 65 years and older are the least likely to get sick with the virus. People aged 65 years and older remain at increased risk for complications from seasonal influenza compared to younger people and are recommended for annual seasonal flu vaccine.

**For more information about H1N1 Influenza and seasonal flu, visit the Bay County Health Department's webpage at [www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health](http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health) and CDC's website at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)**