



Snow Hill (Main Office)
410-632-1100
Fax 410-632-0906
TTY 410-632-1100

Worcester County

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 249 • Snow Hill, Maryland 21863-0249

Deborah Goeller, R.N., M.S.
Health Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Marty Pusey, M.Ed., Public Information Officer
Worcester County Health Department
410-632-1100 Ext. 1104
martyp@dnhm.state.md.us

HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO H1N1 VACCINE ARRIVALS

Snow Hill, Md., 10/20/09, The Worcester County Health Department, like other public health organizations across the State and the Nation, plans to provide the H1N1 vaccine to the most at risk individuals as quickly as possible. However, a major challenge has been that the scheduling, ordering, and arrival of vaccine has not always been predictable.

Manufacturers and suppliers of seasonal flu vaccine have shifted their resources from delivery of the seasonal flu vaccine to the H1N1 vaccine. The Health Department, like many other vaccine providers, has to suspend its seasonal flu clinics. According to Debbie Goeller, Health Officer, “this is an appropriate decision since the H1N1 virus circulating is the predominant strain. It is expected that suppliers will once again be shipping seasonal vaccine once the H1N1 becomes widely available.”

The Worcester County Health Department has received an initial small supply of H1N1 vaccine, and is focusing on children with special needs, direct care vaccinators, and pregnant women. Pregnant women should talk to their health care provider about receiving the vaccine and if they can provide it. If not, women who are pregnant may call the Worcester County

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Health Department at 410-632-1100 to make an appointment. As more H1N1 Vaccine arrives, vaccination clinics will also be planned for schools and day care centers.

As H1N1 vaccine becomes more available, the Health Department, in partnership with Atlantic General Hospital, will offer public clinics for targeted risk groups and later expand to the general public. This is expected to occur in November.

For more information about the H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines and clinics, please call the Worcester County Health Information Line at 410-632-4321 or check the website at www.Worcesterhealth.org.