



North Central District Health Department

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Important Health Alert:

North Central District Health Department

Contact: Peggy Hart, Disease Surveillance Coordinator, peggy@ncdhd.ne.gov or Concey Ramold, Emergency Response Coordinator, concey@ncdhd.ne.gov, 402-336-2406

To: Parents

Memo: H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Availability

A new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many children have gotten 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been outbreaks in some schools throughout our district. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available. Other groups recommended to get the first available doses of the vaccine include:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services workers, and
- People ages 25 through 64 years who have certain health conditions such as HIV, diabetes, or heart or lung disease.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. North Central District Health Department is currently receiving small allotments of vaccine each week and will continue to receive vaccine on a weekly basis. We have not received a large enough supply of vaccine to hold school-based vaccination clinics at this time and are unsure when we will be able to. Small amounts of vaccine are being sent to local clinics in our district and we would like to encourage parents who have children with pre-existing medical conditions, such as asthma or diabetes, to contact their local clinic and make arrangements for their children to be vaccinated. Children with pre-existing medical conditions are at an increased risk for complications from the H1N1 influenza virus.

Please call our office at 877-336-2406 or your health care provider if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Peggy Hart RN, BSN
Disease Surveillance Coordinator