

CATEGORY: News Release

RELEASE DATE: For Immediate Release

RE: H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) Vaccine Update

CONTACT: E. W. Gray, M.D., Health Officer, Northeast Tri County Health District

Northeast Tri County Health District is responsible for assuring H1N1 vaccine availability for Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties. At this point, we are receiving very limited quantities of the vaccine. Our initial obligation is to offer the H1N1 vaccine to individuals in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) designated priority populations. These include pregnant women, children 6 months through 24 years, health care workers, caretakers of infants under 6 months of age, adults 25 through 64 who have compromised medical conditions: cancer; blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease); chronic lung disease (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema, chronic bronchitis); diabetes; heart disease (such as stroke, heart failure, heart attack, heart surgery); kidney disorder; liver disorder (such as chronic hepatitis C); neurological disorder (such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy, brain or spinal cord injuries, mental retardation, developmental delay, parkinsons); neuromuscular problems (such as MS or muscular dystrophy); weakened immune system (such as HIV/AIDS, Chron's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, organ transplant, bone marrow transplant, long term cortisone therapy). We have delivered very limited supplies of the vaccine, both mist and injectable, to health care providers throughout our three counties. We have also retained a limited amount within our agency to provide the vaccine to members of our communities. We are taking calls and placing individuals on a waiting list. During the call you will be screened to determine if you meet any of the above priority population criteria. We will schedule the priority populations for appointments, however this will be dependent on the delivery of the vaccine. As we receive more vaccine, we will call those on our waiting lists and schedule them for appointments. We understand your concerns, and will do as much as we can to assure your ability to receive the H1N1 vaccine. We will be limited in our ability to respond because of the limited supply of the vaccine that we are receiving.

Health District Offices: Colville (509) 684-5048 or 1-800-827-3218

Newport (509) 447-3131 or 1-800-873-6162

Republic (509) 775-3111 or 1-800-876-3319

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