

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission

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October 30, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

A vaccine for the 2009 H1N1 Influenza virus has been developed, and will be available to community members over the coming weeks and months. As initial supplies of vaccine slowly arrive, it will be made available to certain groups of the population deemed at greatest risk of infection. As more vaccine becomes available, anyone who wishes to receive it will have the opportunity during future clinics. *The decision to receive H1N1 vaccine is completely voluntary.*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have identified target populations for vaccination, but due to the initial limited availability of vaccine, priority populations have been identified for vaccination at the first clinics. These are:

- Children aged 6 months through 5 years
- Children and young adults aged 5 years through 18 years with underlying health conditions
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Pregnant women
- Health care and emergency medical services workers

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, in partnership with local school districts and other local health departments, will be hosting free community H1N1 Influenza vaccination clinics on several dates from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. Individuals who fit the above categories, regardless of where they live, are eligible to receive the vaccine. **To schedule an appointment online** for any of more than 20 clinic locations in the greater Somerset County area please visit www.greatersomerset1n1.org. You may also call the 'Greater Somerset H1N1 Shotline' at 908-533-9330 to schedule an appointment. Note that children nine (9) and under will require two doses, scheduled at least 4 weeks apart. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. As more vaccine becomes available the populations eligible for vaccination will be expanded, so please continue to check the website for availability.

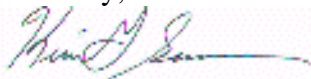
Consent forms are available at the above site which can be completed in advance to save time at the clinic.

To learn more about the H1N1 virus and H1N1 vaccination activities:

- Greater Somerset County clinic listing: www.greatersomerset1n1.org
- The New Jersey H1N1 Hotline: 1-866-321-9571;
- CDC Website: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/vaccination_qa_pub.htm
- Commission website: www.middlebrookhealth.org

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 732-356-8090.

Sincerely,



Kevin G. Sumner, MPH
Health Officer/Director

