



# Okanogan County Public Health

<http://www.okanogancounty.org/ochd/index.htm>

1234 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
P.O. Box 231  
Okanogan, WA 98840  
(509) 422-7140  
TDD (800) 833-6388

14 January 2010

Public Service Announcement for the week of 11 January 2010.

The following public service announcement is provided by Okanogan County Public Health (OCPH) as an update to the current flu and H1N1 (Swine) flu cases in Okanogan County. This public service announcement will be updated and provided weekly as we continue through the current flu season.

**Okanogan County Public Health has conducted two H1N1 vaccination clinics over the past two weeks. Over 160 people were vaccinated at those clinics and the vaccinations were provided by OCPH free of charge. OCPH will be partnering with Wenatchee Valley College to conduct an H1N1 vaccination clinic for faculty and staff at the WVC location in Okanogan from 10:00am-2:00pm on 28 January 2010.**

**Please note as well that in light of the current weather which has resulted in considerable snow melt and rainfall there are some wells within the county that are at risk from flooding. In the event that your water well is flooded by the surface water buildup that is occurring please contact OCPH for information regarding the risks of surface water contamination and disinfection requirements.**

OCPH continues to monitor the flu activity throughout the county through the help of clinics, hospitals, other health care providers, and school district personnel. There continues to be a general decline of reported cases in all areas of the county. Schools within the county have been reporting absentee rates that are consistently within normal ranges for this time of year.

In the event that you have questions regarding the flu or would like more information, please contact the OCPH Influenza Hotline at (509) 422-7393, which is updated weekly. Additional information is available at the Washington State Department of Health's H1N1 Hotline at 1-888-703-4364. There is also a Washington State Department of Health website addressing the H1N1 flu issues at: [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)

You can increase protection to yourself and others from the flu virus by ensuring that you:

- Wash your hands often
- Cover your cough
- Stay home if you are ill

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND  
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

As of the above date, OCPH has received and distributed 9500 doses of H1N1 vaccine to 16 clinics and three hospitals throughout the county. Small shipments of additional vaccine continue to arrive weekly and are distributed as quickly as possible to medical providers.

Priorities for distribution of the H1N1 vaccine remain unchanged. General vaccination to the public is now approved due to the increased availability of vaccine.

Please note that medical providers throughout the county continue to follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines below which prioritize those persons that should receive the H1N1 vaccine as soon as possible.

## Priority Groups Recommended to Receive the H1N1 Flu Vaccine

- The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a panel made up of medical and public health experts, recommends several groups receive the H1N1 flu vaccine as soon as possible:

**Pregnant women** because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated.

**Household contacts** and **caregivers** for children younger than 6 months of age because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants less than 6 months old might help protect infants by "cocooning" them from the virus.

**Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel** because infections among healthcare workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism among healthcare professionals could reduce healthcare system capacity.

### All people from 6 months through 24 years of age

**Children from 6 months through 18 years of age** because there have been many cases of H1N1 flu in children and they are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread.

**Young adults 19 through 24 years of age** because there have been many cases of H1N1 flu in these healthy young adults and they often live, work, and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population.

**Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.**