

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

January 11, 2010

Board of Health
City of Cincinnati

Contact Rocky Merz 513-357-7291 or 513-368-1620

National Influenza Vaccine Awareness Week Kicks off— Time is Now for H1N1 Immunization

Cincinnati-Yesterday marked the beginning of the annual observance of National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) which wraps up Saturday. This flu season has presented the City with a unique challenge to organize to fight a new type of flu – the H1N1 flu virus. Thousands of City residents have already received H1N1 vaccine and those that have not yet received it should get it now.

Vaccines provide the best defense available to combat the flu. When H1N1 vaccine began arriving in late October the Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) moved quickly to mobilize its 400 dedicated medical professionals, and countless volunteers, **to vaccinate over 40,000 children and other individuals**, many of whom are considered high risk. Hundreds of vaccination sessions were held at public and private schools, health centers, and community sessions throughout the City. Now the vaccine is available for all people, including those who are at risk of flu related complications.

The H1N1 flu is a serious disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that between mid-April and November 14, 2009, 47 million people in the United States were infected with the 2009 H1N1 flu, more than 200,000 people were hospitalized, and over 9,800 people died. Influenza is unpredictable but if history is any guide there is a possibility that another epidemic wave of the disease may occur in the Spring.

“I am extremely proud of the effort put forward by our employees and volunteers who have worked incredibly hard over the last few months to immunize thousands of school children, expectant mothers and others most at risk for complications, and who continue to work to protect you. If you have not yet been immunized, now is your opportunity to get protection from this very serious disease,” said Cincinnati Health Commissioner Dr. Noble Maseru, Ph.D., MPH.

(more)

The Cincinnati Health Department is offering H1N1 vaccinations at the following times and locations:

Health Center	Day and Time	Address
Millvale Health Center	Fri – 1 - 3 pm	2750 Beekman St
Elm Street Health Center	Th – 9 - 11:30 am Fri – 1 - 3:30 pm	1525 Elm St
Northside Health Center	W – 9:30 - 11: 30 Fri – 1 - 3 pm	3917 Spring Grove Avenue
Price Hill Health Center	M – 8 -10 am Tu – 9:30 - 10: 30 am Fri – 8 -10 am	2136 West 8 th St
Braxton Cann Health Center	W – 1 - 3:30 pm	5818 Madison Rd

Individuals are encouraged, but not required, to print and fill out the consent form ahead of time and bring it with them. The form may be accessed here:

http://cincinnati-oh.gov/health/downloads/health_eps38182.doc

The CHD agrees with the CDC and strongly encourages you and your family members to receive both the H1N1 and the seasonal flu vaccines. All forms of the H1N1 vaccine are being produced with the identical process used successfully for years for seasonal flu. Additional vaccine safety information from CDC is available here:

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine_safety.htm

For Additional Information about National Influenza Vaccine Awareness Week:

- www.Flu.gov/getvaccinated

H1N1 Information and Updates from the Cincinnati Health Department:

- 513-357-7499, the Cincinnati Health Department's H1N1 Information and Vaccination Hotline
- Visit: www.cincinnati-oh.gov (click "H1N1 Flu Info" on the top right)
- Follow the Cincinnati Health Department on twitter at: www.twitter.com/CinciHealthDept
- H1N1 Vaccination Schedule link: http://cincinnati-oh.gov/health/downloads/health_pdf38140.doc

###