

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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'Open' Flu Clinic Slated for Veterans' Day

H1N1 Vaccine Available to 'Walk-In' Priority Groups

The first 'open' H1N1 immunization clinic will be held on Wednesday, November 11th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Oneida County Office Building in Utica, Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. announced today.

"We are working diligently to afford protection of the vaccine to those most vulnerable to the H1N1 influenza, as soon as it becomes available to us," Picente said. "The Health Department has just received a quantity of the vaccine and we want make sure Oneida County residents don't have to wait any longer than necessary to be vaccinated. I'm directing Buildings and Grounds to have the County Office Building open for the purpose of holding the clinic, and our nursing staff to be on hand to administer the vaccine despite the legal holiday for county employees."

The clinic will be held on the first floor of the County Office Building at 800 Park Avenue. Vaccine will be provided in either the injectable form or nasal spray to prioritized groups including:

- Pregnant women
- Children 6-months to 18-years of age
- Parents and caregivers of children under 6-months of age
- Persons 19-years to 24-years of age
- Persons 25-years to 64-years of age at risk for medical complications due to underlying medical conditions
- Healthcare workers, nurses, and Emergency Services personnel who have direct patient contact

Due to limited supply of certain dosage forms, parents of children 6-months to 36-months of age are asked to call the Oneida County Health Department at 798-5747 for an appointment.

[more]

The County Executive disclosed his other plans to protect County employees and the general public from influenza and limit the spread of the virus which include the installation of wall-mounted hand sanitizer dispensers throughout all County office buildings; the distribution of posters reminding employees to practice good hygiene, cover coughs and sneezes using a tissue or the crook of your arm – never your hand; stay home from work if you're sick with flu-like symptoms, and remain home for 24 hours after a fever subsides. Picente said he has also directed the Health Department to plan and conduct a series of educational seminars for County Employees on the subject of protecting themselves from H1N1 influenza.

"I will continue to work closely with public health to minimize the impact of this or any health threat to our community until such time that the crisis passes," Picente said.

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