

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

November 16, 2009
For Immediate Release

Contact: Patrice Bogan, F.P.N., Director of Clinical Services
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H1N1 Clinics Scheduled

Vaccine available for 'High Risk' Children, Young and 'High Risk' Adults

Adults 19 to 24-years, those 25 to 64-years with underlying medical conditions and parents and caregivers of infants under 6-months can get the H1N1 influenza vaccine at a walk-in clinic scheduled for **Tuesday, November 17**, from **4:30 pm to 7:00 pm** at the Oneida County Health Clinic at 406 Elizabeth Street in Utica.

Health care workers and Emergency Services Personnel who have direct patient contact can also be vaccinated at this clinic, Patrice Bogan, F.N.P., Director of Clinical Services said. Bogan added, *"Those persons over 64-years of age, regardless of their medical complexity, are still required to wait until the CDC drops its restrictions when vaccine becomes more plentiful."*

A second clinic for children only, (6-months to 18-years), particularly those at high risk with underlying medical conditions, will be held on **Saturday, November 21st**, from **10 am to 2 pm** at the MVCC Alumni College Center, Room 116 on the Utica campus.

"We have to keep in mind the time of year and consider the hundreds of people, many with children as young as 6-months waiting their turn for the vaccination," Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. said. *MVCC was chosen as the site for the clinic because it will afford protection from the elements and has easier parking. We want to make the vaccination experience as convenient and comfortable as possible."*

"Persons are asked to call the clinic in advance to schedule a half-hour time slot so as to avoid waiting in long lines," Picente said.

About 600 people waited in line for up to 2 ½ hours to receive the H1N1 vaccine at Oneida County's first open clinic held last week. The health department recently announced that five persons had died from complications of H1N1 influenza since the outbreak began.

The public is reminded of measures they can take to prevent infection and spread of the virus including frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home from work and school if they experience flu like illness and to remain home for at least 24 hours after symptoms, especially fever, subsides.

People should also be advised that area hospitals including Faxton-St. Luke's and St. Elizabeth Medical Center and Rome Memorial Hospital are restricting visitors to those healthy adults 18 years and older until further notice as a means of preventing the spread of H1N1 influenza

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