

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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H1N1 and Seasonal Flu Shots Available in Sherrill “County Executive Responds to City’s Request for Two Clinics”

Residents of the City of Sherrill and surrounding areas won’t have to travel to get protection from the H1N1 influenza and seasonal flu, Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. announced today. Picente has directed the health department to hold two immunization clinics for adults 19-years of age and older in that community in the coming weeks; the first for H1N1 shots and the second for seasonal flu vaccinations.

“As we approach peak flu season in Central New York, still dealing with the threat of H1N1 Influenza, health care providers are beginning to see cases of seasonal flu as well,” Picente said. *“As long as supplies of vaccine are available we want to provide as many clinic sites as possible and make it convenient for our residents to get their shots.”*

A free H1N1 immunization clinic will be held on **Wednesday, January 27th** from **1:00 pm to 3:00 pm** at the City Court Building at 377 Sherrill Road for all persons 19-years of age and older, including senior citizens. On **Thursday, February 4th** an immunization clinic offering *seasonal* flu shots for adults 19-years and older will be held from **1:00 – 3:00 pm.** at the City Court Building. A 10-dollar administration fee will be charged for the *seasonal* flu vaccine if the patient is not covered by Medicaid or Medicare Part B. Seasonal flu vaccine is recommended for older citizens who are particular susceptible to complications from seasonal flu. **All vaccines will be given by appointment.** Those wishing to make an appointment for either of the clinics can go to the main page of the county’s web site at ocgov.net and click on “Schedule Your Flu Shot” or by calling the health department at **798-5747**.

Sherrill officials had requested the health department hold immunization clinics in their community.

“I appreciate the County Executive’s attention to the needs of the residents of Sherrill and the surrounding area who may have found it impractical or inconvenient to travel to other clinic sites; and I commend Acting Director of Health Dan Gilmore and his staff for organizing and coordinating these clinics in our city. I urge all Sherrill residents to avail themselves of this opportunity to protect their health and the health of their families during this flu season,” said Mayor Joe Shay.

While newly reported cases of flu-like illness have declined in recent weeks, the H1N1 virus remains the predominant strain seen by health care providers. Many public health officials fear the H1N1 virus may follow the pattern of previous pandemics, with a third wave emerging later in the season or early spring.

For more information on H1N1 or seasonal flu, or for a complete listing of dates and times of immunization clinics, visit the health department’s web site at ocgov.net or call the ‘**Influenza Hotline**’ at **798-3600**.

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