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H1N1 Vaccine Now Available Through Health Department at Multiple Locations

Chattanooga, TN- With the steady increase of H1N1 vaccine shipments to Hamilton County, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department is now able to offer the vaccine at multiple locations in the county. Previously only offered at Eastgate Town Center, the Health Department is expanding operations for H1N1 vaccine administration to satellite Health Department clinics. Ooltewah Health Center and Sequoyah Health Center will now offer H1N1 vaccine, both in the injectable and FluMist formulations, to individuals that fall within the CDC-defined priority groups which include:

- Pregnant women
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years with chronic medical conditions
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age

In addition, parents of children less than age 10 who received their first dose of H1N1 vaccine at least 28 days ago are reminded to make an appointment for their child to receive their second dose. Only children less than age ten need a second dose.

Since local supplies of H1N1 FluMist are greater than H1N1 injectable vaccine, persons medically eligible for FluMist will be given the FluMist formulation. As soon as vaccine supplies become widely available, opportunity for vaccination will be available to all who wish to receive the vaccine. Additionally, as long as the Health Department continues to have ample supply of FluMist, it will be available to all healthy, non-pregnant individuals between the ages of 2 and 49.

“As more vaccine is manufactured, we anticipate that local supplies will continue to increase,” says Becky Barnes, Health Department Administrator. “We have been encouraged by the community support of the vaccine. It’s our hope that more residents will take advantage of the opportunity to protect themselves and their families against the H1N1 virus as more vaccine becomes available,” Barnes continued.

For the latest information on H1N1 vaccine availability through the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, residents should visit the Health Department’s website, health.hamiltontn.org. Persons may also call the Health Department’s hotline for Health Department vaccine supply information at 209-8393. Some area medical providers that have ordered the H1N1 vaccine are receiving shipments of H1N1 vaccine. Residents are encouraged to check with their medical provider to determine if they have vaccine.

Appointments for vaccine administered by the Health Department can be made for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine by calling the Health Department hotline at 209-8393. Hotline operating hours are from 8:30am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. The H1N1 flu vaccine is provided at no charge. For updates, follow the Health Department on Twitter- @HamiltonHealth.

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