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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WASHTENAW COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCES H1N1 CLINIC H1N1 Vaccinations Now Available to Adults with Underlying Medical Conditions**

YPSILANTI, Mich., Nov 9, 2009 — Washtenaw County Public Health Department will provide H1N1 vaccinations at another mass clinic scheduled for Saturday, Nov 14 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor. Pioneer High School is located at 601 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor 48103. Saturday's clinic is open to the wider set of priority groups defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The priorities now include all individuals from 6 months through 24 years of age and individuals 25 to 64 years old who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

“Last week's H1N1 vaccination clinic at EMU went very well,” says Diana Torres-Burgos, MD, MPH, Medical Director for Washtenaw County Public Health. “We look forward to another safe, efficient clinic that reaches more of the individuals prioritized for H1N1 vaccination,” she continued. The mass clinic at EMU on Nov 5 provided H1N1 vaccination to about 2,500 individuals; many who arrived after the initial rush had little or no wait.

The priority groups for Saturday's vaccination clinic, according to CDC guidelines are:

- Pregnant women
- Household and caregiver contacts of infants younger than 6 months
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel who provide direct patient care
- Children and young adults 6 months through 24 years of age
- Individuals 25 to 64 years old who have medical conditions that put them at a higher risk of influenza-related complications

Examples of underlying medical conditions include: chronic lung disease, weakened immune systems, cancer, diabetes, kidney or liver disorders, cardiovascular disease and other conditions. Individuals within these priority

groups should live, work or attend school in Washtenaw County. Specific documentation of underlying medical conditions is not necessary. Health care and emergency services personnel should bring their employment identification. Both H1N1 flu shots and the FluMist will be available on Saturday.

As with last week's H1N1 vaccination clinic at EMU, Public Health staff will screen individuals for illness and eligibility according to the priority groups. Each person eligible for H1N1 vaccination will receive a wristband. Wristbands will correspond to blocks of time at the clinic; individuals may leave and return at the appointed time. Wristbands may be picked up for individuals not present at the initial screening; however, an individual must have a wristband to enter the clinic area and to receive an H1N1 vaccination.

A wristband confirms the availability of a dose and eligibility according to the priority groups. More private medical screening will take place inside the clinic. An individual may still be screened out for medical reasons, such as an egg allergy which is a contraindication for the H1N1 vaccination.

H1N1 vaccinations will begin at 9:00 am and continue until 2:00 pm, or until the last person with a wristband is served. Public Health will make every effort to provide sheltered waiting space, once the clinic opens. Persons arriving prior to the start of the clinic should expect to wait outside. All persons are reminded to dress for the weather.

“We appreciate the support and cooperation of our local schools, and we are looking for additional sites as we move forward with this process,” said Richard Fleece, Health Officer for Washtenaw County Public Health. Pending vaccine supplies, more H1N1 vaccination clinics will be announced.

In addition to this clinic, hospitals, universities and some community health care providers are receiving limited supplies of H1N1 vaccine. In the coming weeks, more vaccine will be available through these providers as well as at Public Health clinics. Overall, Washtenaw County has received approximately 30,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine; on average about 80 percent is going to hospitals, universities and community health care providers for their priority patients and staff. Public Health is using the remaining 20 percent for mass vaccination clinics for priority groups.

For updates to the H1N1 vaccination clinic schedule, visit [www.ewashtenaw.org/flu](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/flu). Public Health nurses and health educators are available to answer more detailed questions 734-544-6700.

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