

Date: December 3, 2009

Community 2009 H1N1 vaccination clinic planned for December 12

Kittitas County Public Health Department will be hosting a community 2009 H1N1 vaccination clinic on Saturday, December 12 in the Kittitas Valley Event Center at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds. The department hopes to have 1500 doses of vaccine available. There will be no cost for the vaccine or service.

Any Kittitas County resident 6 months of age or older will be eligible to receive vaccine at the community clinic. “We have made significant progress in vaccinating people who fall into the high risk target groups,” according to Dr. Mark Larson, Kittitas County Health Officer. “Now that we have vaccinated our high risk populations we are ready to expand vaccination to include others. By starting this process with a community clinic we can reduce the burden that vaccination places on local healthcare facilities.”

The health department will run the event using a “ticket” system, where residents can pick up paperwork and a vaccine ticket at the health department beginning Tuesday, December 8, at 1:00 p.m. Tickets may also be obtained at the event, if all doses have not yet been accounted for. The vaccine tickets will have pre-arranged times for residents to arrive at the Kittitas Valley Event Center for vaccination on Saturday, December 12. Tickets will be handed out in order, with the earliest tickets corresponding to the earliest times. Vaccination times will range from 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Vaccination is the best way to protect against influenza illness. Only one dose of vaccine is needed for persons 10 years of age and older. Children up through age nine, including age nine, should receive two doses of vaccine at least 28 days apart.

Studies have shown that the 2009 H1N1 vaccine creates a strong immune response in most healthy adults 8–10 days after vaccination. The 2009 H1N1 vaccine will not protect against seasonal influenza viruses. For more information about 2009 H1N1 vaccine go to www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu.

The Kittitas County Public Health Department is located at 507 N Nanum St, Suite 102, in Ellensburg.

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