



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Macon County Health Department
1221 E. Condit St • Decatur, IL 62521
217-423-6988 • www.maconcountyhealth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2009

Macon County Health Department to Temporarily Decrease Hours for STD Clinic

DECATUR, IL – The Macon County Health Department will be temporarily decreasing its STD Clinic hours in anticipation of arrival and administration of H1N1 vaccine. The clinic will be closed the week of October 12th-16th and will be open only on Thursday afternoons from 1-3:30 p.m. until after Thanksgiving. The STD Clinic will serve as many clients as possible during those hours on a first come first served basis.

The Macon County Health Department continues to see an increase in influenza-like illness in emergency room visits, physicians' offices, and schools with some resulting hospitalizations. Prior to October, there were eight people hospitalized with lab-confirmed H1N1. Through October 1st to October 8th, there have been ten people hospitalized with lab-confirmed cases of H1N1. The majority of cases are in infants, small children, and teens. While these numbers seem small, health department representatives know that the H1N1 virus is prevalent in Macon County, as not all people need to be tested and/or treated for the illness. Persons with influenza-like illness should phone their primary physician. The Macon County Health Department encourages all residents of Macon County to do their part in reducing transmission of the virus in order to protect those individuals who are most at risk for complications. Easy ways to help prevent spreading the virus include: cough/sneeze etiquette, hand hygiene, and staying home when you are ill.

In anticipation of the arrival of a limited supply of H1N1 flu-mist, clinics will be scheduled for healthcare providers and healthy persons aged two through 24 yrs. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the H1N1 flu mist should not be given to people with chronic health conditions such as asthma, COPD, diabetes, heart disease, and pregnancy. Inactivated flu vaccine will be available for other priority groups at a later date. The priority groups are as follows:

- Pregnant women

- Infants 6 months of age and children and young adults through 24 years of age
- Parents and caregivers of infants under of 6 months of age
- Healthcare providers who give direct patient care
- Persons with chronic health problems 24-64 years of age

The Macon County Health Department will update the public as soon as more information becomes available. For more information about the STD Clinic or H1N1, please contact the Macon County Health Department at (217) 423-6988.

####

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Brandi Binkley
Macon County Health Department
(217) 423-6988 extension 1114

#

#

#