

Darke Co. to receive H1N1 flu vaccine soon

GREENVILLE – The Darke County General Health District will be receiving the H1N1 flu vaccine in the next few weeks as part of the CDC plan to protect all those wishing to be protected against the H1N1 virus. The first shipments will be the live vaccine, given as a nasal spray. These first doses will be available for ages 2-49. And can only be given to healthy persons with no underlying chronic disease. Again, those at greatest risk will be the priority.

The first groups are:

Pregnant women – Persons who live with or provide care for infants less than six months to four years of age.

Health-care and emergency medical personnel who have direct patient contact with patients or infectious materials.

Children and young adults aged six months to four years.

Children and young adolescents aged five years to 18 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

The H1N1 virus is susceptible to anti-viral medications, and can be

prescribed by your physician. They are given to reduce symptoms, but are only advised to treat, not prevent the disease. Antibacterial agents are not generally recommended, but used at the discretion of your physician. Resistance to antibacterial agents should be guarded against.

It is recommended that you pre-register before coming into the H1N1 flu clinic at <https://h1n1vaccine.odh.ohio.gov>. You can register yourself and your dependents. You must have a printer. You must take the form with you to the flu clinic. This will save time spent in the clinic, will help notify you when the vaccine is available, notifies you when to receive a second dose (if needed), and allows you to retrieve your record.

Weekly clinics will be held on Thursdays, at 635 Wagner Avenue, next to Goodwill. The hours will be 8 a.m. to noon and 3-7 p.m. The beginning date will be announced when the vaccine is available. For more information, call 548-4196, ext. 211 or visit www.darkecountyhealth.org.