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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Public Health Peninsula Health District

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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After School H1N1 Vaccine Clinics in the Peninsula Health District

Newport News, Va., November 5, 2009 – The Peninsula Health District, Virginia Department of Health, announces two (2) After School H1N1 Vaccine Clinics during the week of November 9th. "The good news is that we received a large shipment of the nasal spray vaccine," said health director Dr. David Trump, "but that will limit who we can vaccinate at these After School Clinics."

After School Vaccine Clinics

• Monday, November 9 – Grafton High School, 403 Grafton Dr, Yorktown

• Tuesday, November 10 – Stonehouse Elementary School, 3651 Rochambeau Dr, Williamsburg Vaccine administration will begin at 4:00 PM. The waiting line for vaccine will be closed when the clinic leader determines that no more persons can be served by 8:00 PM or that the supply of vaccine will be exhausted.

Who should attend an After School Clinic this week to receive the H1N1 influenza vaccine?

- Children, adolescents and young adults (ages 2 to 24 years)
- Parents, household members or regular caregivers of an infant less than 6 months of age
- Pregnant women

Children do not need to be enrolled in public school to attend an After School Vaccine Clinic.

The nasal spray vaccine (Flumist[®]) will be the primary type of vaccine available at these After School

Clinics. The nasal spray vaccine is a good choice for healthy, non-pregnant persons age 2 to 49 years. There will be limited quantities of injectable vaccine for pregnant women and for children, adolescents and adults in priority groups who cannot receive the nasal spray vaccine. Injectable vaccine will not be available for children less than 48 months of age.

The nasal spray vaccine is:

- Delivered painlessly with less apprehension for many children and adults.
- Thimerosal free/preservative free.
- Safe and effective. It's been used for the seasonal flu vaccine in the U.S. since 2003.

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Persons in other priority groups for H1N1 vaccine should not attend these After School Vaccine Clinics. Adults age 25-64 years who have chronic health conditions that put them at risk of hospitalization if they get influenza are encouraged to check with their regular health care provider about vaccine availability.

"Healthy persons age 25-64 years of age are not a priority group for vaccine at this time," said Dr. Trump, "and the only people 65 and older who should get the vaccine are those who are healthcare workers in direct patient care or those who live with or are regular caregivers for an infant less than 6 months of age."

New appointments for H1N1 vaccine are not available at this time at the Peninsula Health Center, 416 J Clyde Morris Boulevard, Newport News. <u>Call (757) 594-7069 Monday-Friday, 8-12 and 1-5, for information on vaccine availability</u>.

For additional information, call Virginia Department of Health's H1N1 Flu Hotline at 1-877-ASK-VDH3 or go to the VDH H1N1 Vaccine Website www.H1N1GET1.com.

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