

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H1N1 Vaccination, Round Two

The Tama County health department reminds residents that children ages 6 months through 9 years are recommended to receive 2 doses of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that the two doses of the vaccine be separated by 28 days (4 weeks); that means for many children, it is time to administer their second dose. Tuesday, December 1st we will have a clinic at the Tama Civic Center from 2:00-6:00pm. On Thursday, Dec 3 we will be at the Traer Memorial building from 2:00-6:00 pm. No additional clinics are currently scheduled. Dates, times and location of future vaccination opportunities will be publicized in this newspaper, on our website at www.tamacounty.org and on the automated phone line at 641-484-3026.

The first dose of the vaccine basically ‘primes’ the child’s immune system to receive the second dose. The second dose is the one that provides full protection against the H1N1 virus for children ages 6 months through 9 years.

In Tama County, the H1N1 vaccine remains targeted to those at highest risk of becoming ill and developing complications from the virus. These groups include pregnant woman, caregivers of children less than 6 months of age, all children 6 months of age through 24 years with or without chronic medical conditions, adults 25-64 years with chronic medical conditions. You do need a signed authorization from your doctor if you fall in the adult 24-65 years with a chronic medical condition so we know what your medical condition is.

The focus on H1N1 vaccinations this year should also serve as a reminder for parents to check their children’s overall vaccination status, as well as their own, to ensure they are up-to-date. Recommended immunization schedules for children and adults can be found at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp. You may also call Tama County Public Health Agency at 641-484-4788 for information about recommended and required vaccinations.

Influenza infections can make people more likely to develop bacterial pneumonia. Pneumonia infections are a serious complication of seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza infections and can cause death. There is a vaccine to protect high-risk individuals against serious pneumococcal disease. The vaccine is safe and effective. Most people need a single dose of the pneumococcal vaccine in a lifetime. This vaccine is recommended for people who are 65 years of age and older; residents of nursing homes or long-term care facilities; people 2 years of age and older with a weakened immune system; and people 2 years of age and older who have a chronic illness, such as lung disease or diabetes.

A statewide toll-free hotline has been established for public questions about seasonal and H1N1 influenza at 1-800-447-1985. More information can also be found at www.idph.state.ia.us or www.tamacounty.org or get updated information on dates and locations of H1N1 flu clinics.

###