

News Release #4

Tama County Expected to receive 1st shipment of H1N1 Flu mist vaccine soon.

Tama County Public Health is expecting to receive the 1st shipment of H1N1 influenza vaccine either this week or next.

We have been working on the best way possible to get this vaccine out to residents in our county who are at greatest risk for infection from this new strain of influenza says Linda Rosenberger, director of Tama Co. Public Health.

The vaccine is being distributed to public health agencies across the state on a per capita basis. We are expecting to receive about 100 doses on this first shipment. The first supply of vaccine will be the nasal mist type, which cannot be used for all the priority groups. For example pregnant woman, children under the age of 2 years and any one with serious underlying health problems, are not recommended to get the flu mist vaccine, but are encouraged to get the injected type when is becomes available.

To make the distribution of the vaccine available to the highest risk residents ,Tama County Public Health has developed a risk determination and authorization form that will need to be filled out and signed by your physician's office and brought with you to the free clinic when the vaccine is given. A sample of this is printed below. You may clip this out or pick up this form from your local physician.

Tama County Public Health will be the only distributor of this vaccine for Tama Co. residents. You must receive your vaccination in the county in which you live. The only exception will be for college students and they may receive at the college they are attending.

"As we wait for more vaccine to become available to our county, I encourage everyone to practice the three Cs of flu prevention, Rosenberger added. Cover your cough with a tissue or your elbow; Clean your hands with soap and water often and thoroughly and Contain germs by staying home when you are sick."

Please visit our web site www.tamacounty.org for updated information regarding the dates and locations of the free clinics throughout the county.