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Board of Health
City of Cincinnati

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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Cincinnati Begins School Vaccination Program

Cincinnati—Tomorrow, on Tuesday October 20th the Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) in close coordination with Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) will hold its first H1N1 school vaccination session at the Winton Hills Academy, 5300 Winneste Avenue, 45232.

MEDIA AVAILABILITY—Interested members of the media may arrive at the front desk of the school at 10 am. They will be directed to an area where they may film and watch vaccinations and conduct interviews with CHD and CPS officials until 10:30. Due to patient confidentiality requirements future sessions will generally not be open to the media or general public.

This is the first of many school vaccination sessions to take place over the coming weeks. As vaccine continues to become available CHD nurses and staff will visit schools where eligible students will receive H1N1 Flu vaccination. The goal is to immunize as many Cincinnati students as quickly as possible. Prior to vaccination a signed consent form is required. Parents and guardians are encouraged to return signed forms in order to expedite the process once vaccine is available. Forms can be found here: <http://www.cps-k12.org/general/health/H1N1/H1N1.htm>

Dr. Marilyn Crumpton who heads the Cincinnati Health Department's School Health Program is anxious to begin. "We've been planning for this day for months and we're thrilled to get nurses at the schools providing vaccinations. We're seeing a lot of flu illness at many schools. We have focused on treatment and these efforts will continue, however, the arrival of vaccine offers us a new tool in our H1N1 prevention toolbox."

(more)

"We are very grateful to the Cincinnati Health Department for working so closely with us to help assure that our students, families and staff are protected," Superintendent Mary Ronan said. "We will continue to do all we can to try to protect the Cincinnati Public Schools family from H1N1 and all other forms of the flu."

The Cincinnati Health Department received its first shipment of 4630 doses of H1N1 vaccine. Vaccine, in both nasal spray and shot form will continue to arrive in batches over the coming weeks eventually resulting in adequate supplies for anyone wishing to receive it. Until it does the Health Department urges patience. Due to the production schedule and procurement process managed by the state and federal governments specific details about the timing of future vaccine arrival are not yet known.

Because vaccine is in short supply the Health Department is examining factors such as staffing availability and percentage of signed consent forms when determining the school vaccinations schedule. Because these sessions are not open to the general public and are intended for school children information about the schedule of these vaccination sessions will be communicated directly to the students, families and schools.

Who will receive the vaccine first?

Flumist should only be given to healthy people ages 2 to 49 years. Based on vaccine supply the Health Department has begun administering the flumist vaccine to high priority groups as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Those groups include HealthCare workers and school aged children.

Other high priority groups such as pregnant women, children under 2, and those with underlying medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes are not able to receive the flumist form of the vaccine due to potential health risks. However the Health Department is beginning to administer the injectable H1N1 vaccine to these groups as it is received. The full list of priority groups as determined by the CDC may be found here: <http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm>

When the vaccine is in adequate supply the Health Department will offer the general public vaccine in the evening at the Cincinnati Health Department's 5 Community Health Centers. Details about the dates and times will be released when adequate vaccine supply is attained.

The H1N1 vaccine does not protect against seasonal flu. The Cincinnati Health Department recommends that once in supply individuals receive both the seasonal and the H1N1 flu vaccines in accordance with existing CDC recommendations.

For more information:

- 513-357-7499 Cincinnati Health Department H1N1 Information and Vaccination Hotline
- Visit: www.cincinnati-oh.gov
- Follow the Cincinnati Health Department on twitter at: www.twitter.com/CinciHealthDept
- www.cdc.gov

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