



NIAGARA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

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**Niagara County Department of Health to hold free Joint Rabies and Flu shot Clinic in
North Tonawanda**

On Saturday, December 6th, 2008, the Niagara County Department of Health, in cooperation with the City of North Tonawanda officials, will operate a special combined animal and human vaccination clinic ("FluRab" Point of Dispensing, or "POD") from 2pm to 4pm at the Department of Public Works, located at 758 Erie Avenue in North Tonawanda. At this POD, nurses and doctors will administer standard flu vaccine to humans 3 years and older, and veterinarians will vaccinate their pets with rabies vaccine. This concept of simultaneous animal and human vaccination at a POD is a unique idea developed by Emergency Preparedness Program in Niagara County to test animal and human disease emergency response plans.

While pet owners receive their flu shots, specially trained animal handlers will assist them with their pets. **This clinic is open to all people and their family members (aged 3 and older) who want the free flu shot.** Niagara County has organized the clinic to **include a special fast lane for people who would like the flu vaccine, but are not bringing pets.** Volunteers from the Niagara County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), North Tonawanda Emergency Medical System, Radio Amateur Citizen Emergency System (RACES), the North Tonawanda Auxiliary Police, Niagara County Animal Response Team (CART) and Niagara University Border Community SERVICE will participate in the clinic.

Niagara County Department of Health is the first health department to present this unique opportunity to the public, and we hope you will consider participating with your pets. Representatives from the New York State Department of Health will be present to assist and evaluate the clinic.

The Niagara County Department of Health does not offer dog parvovirus vaccine at rabies clinics. It is important for the health and well being of your dogs and that of other dogs attending this clinic, that they have seen a veterinarian and are up to date on their parvovirus immunizations.

Flu and rabies vaccines are free of charge, and there is no administration fee. You do not have to bring a pet to get the free flu shot. If you would like to participate in this FluRab POD but have questions, please contact the Emergency Preparedness Program at 439-7439.

PUBLIC HEALTH: PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.