



NIAGARA COUNTY  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTY HOLDS FREE, OPEN H1N1 CLINIC THURSDAY  
FIRST ACT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE UNDER SMOLINSKI

NORTH TONAWANDA—County residents looking to stave off the seasonal flu and H1N1 will have an opportunity for free vaccinations all day Thursday at the Gratwick Hose Fire Co., 110 Ward Road, North Tonawanda.

Vaccinations will be given for seasonal flu and H1N1 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Legislator Pete Smolinski, R-North Tonawanda, newly-appointed chairman of the County Legislature's Community Services Committee, explained following a committee meeting in Lockport Monday night. The Community Services Committee has oversight of the Health Department.

The H1N1 and flu shot clinic—what the Niagara County Health Department calls a "POD," an acronym for Point of Dispensing—will provide the vaccinations free to all county residents aged six months and older. No pre-registration is required for the shots.

According to Smolinski, the clinic aims to prevent the transmission of communicable sicknesses.

"This is something you have to do for yourself, your family, and your friends," Smolinski said. "It's very important that you get protected so that you can't pass on anything to your family, so that you don't pass it on to your co-workers—so that everyone in the community is safer for it."

The POD was the process of cooperation between Smolinski, Committee Vice Chairman Danny W. Sklarski, D-Niagara, who chaired the committee before Smolinski, and Public Health Director Dan Stapleton. The trio began planning the North Tonawanda POD at the end of Sklarski's tenure as committee chairman. Sklarski and Smolinski planned a seamless transition, with Sklarski continuing as committee vice chairman when Smolinski took the committee's reins.

"This is my first meeting as chairman of Community Services for the county," Smolinski said. "We—Danny Sklarski, Dan Stapleton, and I—got together to review some of the things we would be doing in the near future."

County residents interested in learning more about H1N1 may do so by calling the Health Department's Flu Information line at (716) 278-1684 or by visiting the Health Department's swine flu page at <http://niagaracounty.com/Health/SwineFlu.asp>.

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