



NIAGARA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
5467 Upper Mountain Road, Suite 100
Lockport, New York 14094-1894

Daniel J. Stapleton, M.B.A.
Public Health Director

PRESS RELEASE

Combined Free Animal Rabies and Human Flu Shot Clinic

For Immediate Release: May 4, 2010

Contacts: Rabies Vaccination: 716-439-7444, Fabian Rosati, Assoc. Supervising Sanitarian
H1N1 Vaccination: 716-439-7436, Elaine Roman, Emergency Preparedness Director

On Saturday, May 22, 2010 the Niagara County Department of Health will be conducting a **free** rabies and flu shot clinic from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Merchant Building, located at 4487 Lake Avenue in the Town of Lockport, 14094. All Niagara County residents who need their animals vaccinated, or need H1N1 vaccine for themselves or second doses of H1N1 for their children are encouraged to take advantage of this **free** combined flu and rabies vaccination clinic.

By law, all cats, dogs and domesticated ferrets must have current rabies vaccinations beginning at four months of age. Residents seeking rabies shots for their pets should bring their animal immunization records with them to the rabies clinic. Owners of cats and dogs with proof of previous rabies immunizations will receive a certificate valid for three years. Owner of cats and dogs without proof of previous rabies shots will receive a one-year certificate. Ferrets must receive their rabies shots annually, regardless of previous rabies immunizations. For questions about rabies vaccination, contact the Niagara County Department of Health Environmental Division at 716-439-7444.

Extended H1N1 Vaccination Initiative

H1N1 and seasonal flu viruses continue to circulate globally, causing illness, hospitalizations and deaths. Travelers who have not been immunized for H1N1 and seasonal flu are at increased risk of contracting influenza, especially those with destinations in the southern hemisphere, Asia, Africa or Eastern Europe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health are strongly recommending local health departments continue offering H1N1 vaccinations through the end of June. Any child under the age of 10 who received his or her first 2009-2010 H1N1 flu vaccination needs to receive a second booster dose by the end of June 2010. Otherwise, two doses will be required for the 2010-2011 flu season, which begins in October. In 2009, H1N1 illness peaked in April and October, with a short lull in the summer months while kids were home from school. Public Health officials want all adults and children to be fully vaccinated before the next wave hits. For questions regarding the extended H1N1 vaccination initiative, please call the Niagara County Department of Health Emergency Preparedness Division at 716-439-7436.

All flu and rabies shots are **free** this year! Don't miss this opportunity to protect your families and pets from these vaccine preventable diseases. We hope to see you at the **free** Niagara County Department of Health rabies/flu clinic on May 22nd.

PUBLIC HEALTH: PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.