



**NIAGARA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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### **Press Release**

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The Niagara County Department of Health will conduct its next H1N1 school immunization clinic this season for the Roy-Hart School District. Ample supplies of both H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines will be available **without cost** for all individuals 6 months and older. The Roy-Hart School District H1N1 Point of Dispensing (POD) Clinic will be held at Royalton-Hartland Junior/Senior High School, 54 State St., Middleport, NY, 14105 on Thursday, January 7, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Individuals with appointments and completed paperwork will be prioritized and fast-tracked. Community members without appointments will be accepted throughout the day as openings become available.

A Community H1N1 POD for all Niagara County residents will be held at Gratwick Hose Fire, 110 Ward Road, North Tonawanda from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday January 14, 2010. No pre-registration is required.

“With the recent lifting of restrictions by Governor Paterson, we felt it was time to double our efforts of protecting all Niagara County residents from the H1N1 virus by scheduling school based and community based clinics”, said Public Health Director Daniel J. Stapleton.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO GET THE H1N1 FLU VACCINE?**

**New York State is now making the vaccine available to ALL New Yorkers 6 months of age and older.** During the first phase of New York’s statewide vaccination campaign, when supplies of vaccine were limited, the State designated the H1N1 vaccine for priority groups considered at highest risk of serious illness and complications from the flu and those at risk of transmitting the flu to vulnerable individuals.

### **NOW IS THE TIME TO GET VACCINATED!**

The H1N1 flu season is far from over. H1N1 flu activity is still widespread in New York State. Typically, the most flu activity occurs from January through March, and the flu season runs until May. Getting vaccinated now will provide protection for you against H1N1 flu for the rest of the season this winter and spring.

### **THE H1N1 VACCINE IS SAFE.**

The H1N1 vaccine will NOT make you sick, but the flu WILL. Like the seasonal flu vaccine, the H1N1 vaccine has a very good safety record. Most people who receive the H1N1 flu don’t experience any symptoms afterwards; some feel a temporary mild soreness in the arm. The nasal spray vaccine is also safe, effective, and easy to use.

### **PROTECTION FOR THE UNINSURED**

Over 70,000 children in Niagara County are between the ages of 0 and 24. Of these, nearly 9,000 are uninsured and 3,600 are underinsured. By conducting mass flu clinics the Niagara County Department of Health will be able to capture the population of disadvantaged children and uninsured adults that would otherwise have no opportunity for vaccination against H1N1 and seasonal flu.

Schools are vital partners in the operation of mass vaccination Points of Dispensing (PODs). All district Superintendents are in discussion with the Health Department to prepare their school communities for this important Public Health initiative.

It is important to realize that there is relief for those individuals who do contract the flu. Thomas Hughes, MD, President of the Niagara County Board of Health and Family Practice Physician recommends treating an individual who is experiencing influenza-like symptoms with antiviral medication (such as Tamiflu or Relenza). “The best treatment results occur when antivirals are given within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms. This treatment produces good results clinically.” Individuals experiencing flu-like symptoms should contact their primary care provider with questions regarding antivirals.

**PUBLIC HEALTH: PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.**