

**Date: December 7, 2009**

**H1N1 Vaccine Eligibility Expanded to All County Residents Beginning December 14th**

The Coshocton County and City Health Departments will soon expand local H1N1 influenza vaccine eligibility to all residents beginning December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Ohio Department of Health has lifted restrictions on the vaccine that prevented the local health departments from vaccinating people who did not fall into high risks groups.

For the next week, the health departments will continue to focus vaccination efforts exclusively on health care and EMS workers who provide direct patient care; pregnant women; people who live with or care for children less than 6 months of age; all people 6 months to 24 years; and people 25 to 64 years with chronic medical conditions.

Christy Mosier, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator said, “Beginning the week of December 14th, all individuals who want the H1N1 can receive the vaccine free of charge from the County and City Health Departments at our scheduled H1N1 flu clinics.”

Officials from the Ohio Department of Health evaluated several factors before making the decision to lift restrictions on vaccine eligibility, including prior vaccine distribution, feedback from local health departments and discussions with other state and federal health officials.

In addition to being vaccinated, Coshocton County residents can help stop the spread of illness by washing hands thoroughly and often; covering mouths when sneezing or coughing; and staying home from work or school if sick.

For more H1N1 clinic information or to make an appointment, call the County Health Department at 295-7397 or the City Health Department at 622-1736, Ext. 112 for more information on their clinics.