



Press Release

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BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
www.bfhd.wa.gov

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Always working for a safer and healthier community.

Websites:

Benton-Franklin Health District
www.bfhd.wa.gov

Washington Department of Health
www.doh.wa.gov/swineflu

Centers for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov/swineflu
or
www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm#guidancedocs

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H1N1 Vaccine Available for All Through Many Locations BFHD Clinic Appointments Full for the Week

- **Physicians, Clinics, and Pharmacies are providing vaccinations for all beginning today, December 14, 2009.**
- **BFHD H1N1 Clinics scheduled for this week are full. More are being scheduled.**
- **BFHD is conducting clinics by appointment only. Call (509) 460-4510 to schedule.**

Kennewick – December 14, 2009

Demand for the H1N1 Vaccine by the general public is running high, with many people calling the Benton-Franklin Health District to schedule an appointment to be vaccinated.

“We are thrilled that people want to get vaccinated and protect themselves and their families from the H1N1 flu. Our phones are ringing off the hook.” said Dr. Larry Jecha, Benton-Franklin Health District Health Officer. “People need to know that they can also be vaccinated by their healthcare provider and at local pharmacies. This is a community crisis, and it takes all of us to meet the need. Unfortunately the Health District does not have the staff to vaccinate everyone in the community.”

While the overall number of new H1N1 cases reported has declined dramatically over the past month, severe cases requiring medical assistance and hospitalization continue to occur. There is the possibility that a third wave of the disease could erupt in the next several months. Those in the original CDC high-risk groups are encouraged to get vaccinated.

As of December 14th, Benton-Franklin Health District has received 46,000 doses of H1N1 flu vaccine. Vaccine has been distributed to 123 partner sites, including physician offices, community health centers, and pharmacies.

Residents are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider to determine if they are offering H1N1 vaccine. Many pharmacy providers are listed on the BFHD website, www.bfhd.wa.gov.