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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NACO Achievement Award for Health Department's H1N1 Plan

WOODSTOCK IL – McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) has been recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACO) for its *H1N1 RN Recruitment and Utilization Plan*, its 2nd NACO Achievement Award this year. MCDH was successful in recruiting, credentialing, training and staffing its 41 H1N1 vaccination clinics with over 100 volunteer registered nurses through its *Rosie the Riveter* “We Can Do It” campaign. “The use of volunteers was an important component of our H1N1 vaccination campaign”, states Patrick J. McNulty, MCDH’s Public Health Administrator. “We were extremely pleased with the response we received.”

In April 2009, when H1N1 was spreading geographically, the infection rate was climbing and over 300,000 McHenry County residents would need vaccine, the Department of Health set out to design a campaign to increase its Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteer base in order to provide mass vaccinations throughout the County. Mailed postcards and a web-based recruitment system drew an immediate response from the public, with an average of 15 online applications per day. License verification, an orientation session and completion of an extensive training curriculum and competency exam were required of all volunteers.

Volunteer RN’s donated over 1,000 hours during the 3 month period October 30-February 3 administering over 12,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine. Clients surveyed at the H1N1 clinics showed 98% gave MCDH high marks for its courteous and efficiently-run clinics, with an average throughput time of 15 minutes. Partnering with the local healthcare system enabled the County to protect its citizenry from the H1N1 virus and reduce the number of persons affected.

Free walk-in H1N1 clinics are scheduled in July at MCDH’s Woodstock and Crystal Lake offices. For more information, call 815-334-4500.

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“Working to prevent disease and promote health and safety for all people of McHenry County since 1966.”