



**McHenry County
Department of Health**

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National Influenza Vaccination Week: January 10-16, 2010

Woodstock IL – McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) joins the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in its campaign to promote influenza vaccination. The week of January 10th-16th has been designated as “**National Influenza Vaccination Week**”.

“National Influenza Vaccination Week provides an important opportunity for our community to tell people how important it is to get their annual flu shot,” said Patrick J. McNulty, MCDH Public Health Administrator. “Getting vaccinated is the single best way for people to protect not only themselves against flu, but their loved ones as well.” Flu activity is already higher than what is normally seen during the peak of regular flu season. Almost all of the flu viruses identified as of November, 2009 have been H1N1.

The time to get the flu vaccine begins in October and continues into winter through March or April. This year, with the uncertainty of the H1N1 virus, the season may extend beyond the winter months. The H1N1 virus is still causing illness in McHenry County, with 54 hospitalizations and 3 deaths. A key difference between the H1N1 virus and seasonal flu is the population it impacts – younger, healthier individuals and pregnant women are more likely to become ill from the H1N1 virus than seasonal flu which primarily affects older adults.

MCDH has **FREE** H1N1 vaccination clinics on Sunday, January 10th, 12p-4p at Marengo High School, 110 Franks Road, Marengo and Tuesday, January 12th, 1p-3p at Friendship House Daycare, 100 S. Main Street, Crystal Lake. Appointments are available online at www.mcdh.info or at 815-334-2800. Check the MCDH website for the most updated H1N1 clinic schedule. For more information about influenza and influenza vaccine, visit www.flu.gov.

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