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For Immediate Release

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H1N1 Vaccination Alert

The New Hanover County Health Department has received a limited supply of **H1N1 intranasal vaccine**. The intranasal vaccine is available to healthy, non-pregnant people ages 2-49 years. Appointments to receive the intranasal vaccine will begin on Wednesday, October 7, 2009. If you would like to make an appointment, please call 798-6646.

Certain groups of people are more at-risk for severe illness if they become infected with H1N1 influenza. Priority will be given to the following groups to receive the H1N1 injectable vaccine when it first becomes available:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers of children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- People from 6 months through 24 years of age
- People aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of complications from influenza which include:
 - Chronic diseases of the lungs (including asthma), heart (except hypertension), kidney, liver, blood (including sickle cell disease), brain or nervous system, muscles (particularly those that cause difficulty with swallowing) or metabolism (including diabetes mellitus)
 - Immunosuppression (weakened immune system) including that caused by medications or by HIV

Once the demand for these high-risk groups has been met, the vaccine will be available to persons aged 25 through 64 years old and then aged 65 years and older.

Although our older population is more at-risk to become infected with seasonal influenza, the H1N1 influenza has been seen predominantly in the younger age group.

At this time, the CDC does not expect that there will be a shortage of the H1N1 vaccine. The New Hanover County Health Department expects to receive H1N1 vaccine allotments on a weekly basis. For more information on H1N1, please call 798-6684.

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“Healthy People, Healthy Environment, Healthy Community”