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## **News Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Trish Lees, 928-679-7331

Date: October 6, 2009

### **Adult Seasonal Flu Vaccine Supply is Low**

County health officials announced today that the Coconino County Health Department (CCHD) adult seasonal flu vaccine supplies are currently low due to high demand of seasonal flu shots and vaccine supply delivery delays. As a result, the Health Department is currently unable to schedule adult seasonal flu shots. Adults who are interested in getting a seasonal flu shot may call the CCHD Flu Information Line at 928-679-7300 beginning, Monday, October 19 to get more information about future clinics.

Seasonal flu vaccine for children is available. Appointments for children's seasonal flu shots can be made by calling the CCHD Flu Information Line at 928-679-7300.

Currently seasonal flu vaccine supplies will be reserved for high priority risk groups as follow:

- Children aged 6 months up to their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Pregnant women and women planning pregnancy during the flu seasonal
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions. (visit [www.coconino.az.gov/health](http://www.coconino.az.gov/health) or call the CCHD Flu Information Line for more information)
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from the flu (health care workers, household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu, household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age.)
- People undergoing long-term treatment with immunosuppressant medications (steroids, cancer treatment and others.)
- People treated for inflammatory diseases (rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, etc.)
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.

**Those with previously scheduled appointments will be contacted to determine if they fall within one of the high risk categories and will be rescheduled as necessary. Walk-in appointments are not available at this time.**

The Health Department gave over 2,500 seasonal flu shots during September. Over the past several years, CCHD has administered approximately 6,500 seasonal flu shots annually. Due to the high demand for vaccine across the country, orders for the 2009/2010 flu season were limited and initial shipments of this order have not been as high as expected. Portions of the supply have been delayed as some flu vaccine manufacturers have slowed production in order to produce the H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine. Additional shipments of the seasonal flu vaccine are expected in early November.

### **H1N1 (swine) Flu**

The Health Department has received a limited supply of H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine. The small amount available has been allocated to hospitals and pediatric services. Additional shipments are expected in mid October.

Appointments for the CCHD H1N1 (swine) Flu Clinics will be reserved for the first priority group and can be scheduled by calling the CCHD Flu Information Line at 928-679-7300 beginning Monday, October 19. The first priority group to receive H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine includes:

- Pregnant women,
- Children 6 months to 4 years old,
- Children between 5 and 18 with underlying health conditions – neuromuscular disease, diabetes, underlying heart or lung conditions, or suppressed immune system,
- Anyone who lives with or cares for children less than 6 months old,
- Health care (including EMS) workers with direct patient contact.

H1N1 (swine) Flu Clinics are scheduled as follows:

Flagstaff: Saturday, October 24, Coconino County Health Department, 2625 N. King Street, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Williams: Saturday, October 31\*

Fredonia: Saturday, October 31\*

Page: Saturday, November 7\*

\*additional details to follow

As additional H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine is received, the vaccine will be made available to a wider risk group and then, if supplies allow, to the general public.

Additional community seasonal flu vaccination clinics and H1N1 (swine) flu clinics will be scheduled as vaccine supplies allow. All clinics are based on availability of vaccine and subject to change. Appointments will be required. Please check the CCHD website at [www.coconino.az.gov/health](http://www.coconino.az.gov/health) for updated clinic schedules or call the CCHD Flu Information Line at 928-679-7300 for information.

Seasonal flu vaccinations for children age 18 and under are \$15. Adult seasonal flu vaccinations are \$25. Seasonal flu vaccinations are free for people who have Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (excluding Medicare supplement customers and Out-of-state Blue Cross and/or Blue

Shield plan members.), Medicare, AHCCCS, Health Choice Arizona and Phoenix Health Plans. (Ask your scheduling representative for details.) You must present your insurance card at the time of service. No one will be denied service due to inability to pay.

There is no out-of-pocket cost for H1N1 (swine) flu vaccinations. Please bring your insurance card if you are covered by insurance.

Pneumonia vaccinations will be available for a cost of \$30. Pneumonia vaccinations are recommended for individuals age 65 and older and for some high risk groups. Please visit [www.coconino.az.gov/health](http://www.coconino.az.gov/health) for information.

In addition to getting a seasonal flu shot, good health habits will help you stay well. These simple actions can stop the spread of germs and help protect you and others from getting sick:

- Wash your hands frequently during the flu season.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth with your upper sleeve or with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Don't share eating utensils, cups, and straws.
- Stay home when you are sick.

For more information, call the Coconino County Health Department at 928-679-7300 or toll-free 1-877-679-7272.

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