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## **News Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Trish Lees, 928-679-7331

Date: November 5, 2009

### **CCHD has a Limited Supply of Seasonal Flu Vaccine Available**

Due to high demand for seasonal flu shots and delivery delays from vaccine manufacturers, seasonal flu vaccine supplies have been limited. The Coconino County Health Department (CCHD) recently received a small supply of seasonal flu vaccine. As a result, seasonal flu shots will be available by appointment on Friday, November 13, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Coconino County Health Department, 2625 N. King Street. Flagstaff.

#### **Appointments for seasonal flu shots are 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 season
- 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.

**Call the CCHD Flu Information Line at 928-679-7300 or toll-free at 1-877-679-7272 to make an appointment. Appointments for seasonal flu shots are required.**

Seasonal flu vaccinations for children aged 18 and under are \$15. Adult seasonal flu vaccinations are \$25. No one will be denied service due to inability to pay.

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. *You must present your insurance card at the time of service.*

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## **H1N1 (swine) Flu Vaccine Update**

H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine is also in low supply. Additional shipments of the vaccine are expected in mid November and clinics will be scheduled as supplies become available. The H1N1 (swine) Flu vaccine, when available, will be reserved for the first priority group which 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.

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. 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.

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 are available at the CCHD Clinic, 2625 N. King Street, Flagstaff. The cost is \$30. Call 928-679-7222 or toll-free at 1-877-679-7272 to schedule an appointment. Pneumonia vaccinations are recommended for individuals aged 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, or 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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