

Ulster County Weekly H1N1 Update - Released: 8 –Jan. 10

**Ulster County Health Department
Seasonal and H1N1 Influenza Advisory
Update 1/8/10**

Influenza Monitoring:

In Ulster County and New York State, the overall level of flu activity is currently moderate and appears to be slightly increasing when compared to last week. Ulster County Hospital Emergency Departments reported small increases in the number of patients seen with influenza like illness last week. School absenteeism rates for last week and this week are not relevant due to holiday break schedules.

Status of Prevention Efforts:

Flu Vaccination Information:

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine: The Ulster County Health Department (UCHD) is offering seasonal influenza vaccinations to adults 18 years and older at the Health Department's regularly scheduled immunization clinics. Appointments are necessary. Please call the District Office nearest you to schedule an appointment.

Kingston: 340-3070
Ellenville: 647-2343
New Paltz: 883-6155
Saugerties: 246-2621

For those not eligible for Medicare Part B coverage, there will be a \$20.00 charge for influenza vaccination, payable at the clinic. Senior citizens who have Medicare Part B benefits will be able to obtain their vaccinations through Medicare. The recipient must be entitled to Part B coverage on the date of service, Medicare Part B must be the primary insurance coverage, and the Medicare Card must be presented on the date of service.

H1N1 Vaccine: The UCHD is planning additional H1N1 clinics for infants over six months, children and adults for the first quarter of 2010. When more information is available, details will be announced.

National Influenza Vaccination Week: This Sunday marks the beginning of the annual observance of National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) January 10-16, 2010. This flu season has presented our community with a unique challenge to fight a new type of influenza -- the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.

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The H1N1 flu is a serious disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between mid-April and November 14, 2009, 47 million people in the United States were infected with the 2009 H1N1 flu, more than 200,000 people were hospitalized, and over 9,800 people died.

Influenza is unpredictable and we do not know the likelihood of a future wave of H1N1 flu, but we do know that vaccination is the most important step in protecting against influenza. Protect yourself, your family and your community by getting vaccinated. Visit www.flucliniclocator.org to find the closest vaccination clinic and learn more facts about the H1N1 flu. Do your part to help protect your family and our community by keeping yourself and those close to you healthy; get yourself and your family vaccinated.

Where to Find Vaccine: If your provider has not ordered H1N1 vaccine, and does not plan to order H1N1 vaccine, call the Ulster County Health Department Flu Hotline at 845-340-3093 or log onto www.UlsterCountyNY.gov/health to get updated information about when vaccination clinics for the general public will be held. You can also check <http://www.flucliniclocator.org> to see if there are any flu vaccine clinics scheduled near you.