

For Immediate Release
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**Summit County Receives Fewer Than Anticipated H1N1 Vaccine Doses This Week -
*High-Risk Groups Remain a Priority in Receiving Available Vaccine***

Summit County, Colorado- MEDIA RELEASE FROM THE SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summit County Public Health will continue to provide H1N1 vaccine to high-risk groups as vaccine supplies allow. Public health received just 400 of the anticipated 1600 doses of H1N1 vaccine originally designated for Summit County this week. The amount of seasonal flu vaccine in the county is also low but medical providers and pharmacies do have some doses available. Please call those providers directly.

The Centers for Disease Control and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have given the following recommendation: individuals who are in the high-risk group for experiencing complications from H1N1 are advised to be the first in line to receive an H1N1 vaccine:

- Pregnant women,
- Parents/caretakers for children younger than 6 months,
- Preschool children ages 6 months to 5 years,
- School age children and young adults ages 5 - 18 with chronic health conditions,
- Health care workers with direct patient contact.

Summit County Public Health is now offering vaccine to the first three at-risk groups: pregnant women, parents and caretakers of children younger than 6 months of age, and preschool children ages 6 months to 4 years of age. Essential health care workers with direct patient care responsibilities have been offered the vaccine.

Deb Crook, director, “acknowledges that this is frustrating for those individual who know they are at increased risk and are anxious to receive the H1N1 vaccine. However, we continue to be assured by Colorado Department of Health and Environment that Summit County will receive the vaccine we need to provide immunizations for those who need them, though later than originally anticipated.”

In the meantime, people are advised to prevent the flu by practicing good hygiene, staying home when sick and avoiding others who are ill.

Good hygiene habits to prevent the flu include:

- Frequently washing hands;

- Coughing and sneezing into the crook of your arm, rather than uncovered or in your hand;
- Avoiding people with respiratory illness;
- Staying home from work or school when sick, returning only after fever has subsided for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medication.

You may call the Summit County Public Health H1N1 vaccine information line at 970-668-4024 for updated information. Vaccine information will also be available within local newspapers and on local radio stations. Those with internet access may also visit <http://www.co.summit.co.us/press/h1n1.htm>.

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