



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 27, 2009

Contact: Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP – Health Officer

Phone: (304) 348-6494

H1N1 Vaccine Clinics for High Risk Children and Pregnant Women

The Kanawha-Charleston Health Department (KCHD) will be administering the H1N1 influenza vaccine to high risk children every Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The first clinic will be held on Thursday, October 29th at the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department at 108 Lee Street, East in Charleston. Children and adolescents aged 6 months thru 18 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications are eligible. High risk medical conditions may include asthma and other chronic lung disorders, congenital heart disease, neurologic or neurodevelopmental conditions (like cerebral palsy, epilepsy, brain or spinal cord diseases), neuromuscular disorders, blood disorders, cancer, diabetes, kidney and liver diseases, or weakened immune system should attend this clinic. Dr. Gupta states that influenza activity attributed to 2009 H1N1 viruses has increased during the past few weeks and is expected to continue through the fall and winter influenza season this year. He further adds that a flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting against flu infection. “It is expected that there will be enough 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine for anyone who chooses to get vaccinated this year although the availability and demand can sometimes be unpredictable”, states Gupta. Staff will also be available to administer the vaccine to pregnant women at this time as well.

###