



# News Release

Unified Government Public Health Department  
619 Ann Avenue  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Biagio Pagano, Public Information Officer  
913.573.6708

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Unified Government Public Health Department Expands H1N1 Vaccinations to the General Public**

The Public Health Department of the Unified Government of KCK/Wyandotte County, 6<sup>th</sup> & Ann Ave., KCK, is expanding H1N1 vaccinations for the general public. "The priority groups remain an area of emphasis for H1N1 vaccination," stated Joseph Connor, Director of the Health Department. "As the supply of vaccine continues to increase, it is important to satisfy the needs of all individuals who are actively seeking the H1N1 vaccinations."

The priority groups for H1N1 vaccinations are:

- Pregnant women
- Persons who live with or provide care for infants aged less than 6 months such as parents, siblings, and daycare providers
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- Children and young adults ages 6 months through 24 years
- Persons ages 25 through 64 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza related complications

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 35 influenza-associated pediatric deaths during the 46<sup>th</sup> week of this year. While the first wave may be over, there is strong likelihood that this flu will continue to circulate throughout the winter and possibly into the spring. It is also likely that there will be another peak in H1N1 cases along with the seasonal flu which normally peaks in January or February.

Regular clinic hours at the health department for the H1N1 vaccinations are:

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:30am – 4:00pm.
- Thursdays from 8:30am – 11:00am, and 3:00pm to 6:30pm.

Measures that individuals can do to protect one's self, your family and co-workers from H1N1 influenza are *get your flu shot when available, wash your hands often, cover your coughs and sneezes in the bend of your elbow and stay home when you are ill.*

Questions concerning H1N1 can be directed to the Unified Government Public Health Department at 913-573-6712, or to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment hotline toll-free number at 1-877-427-7317 (Spanish speaking operators will be available to answer questions from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday). You can email your questions to: [H1N1FluInfo@kdheks.gov](mailto:H1N1FluInfo@kdheks.gov) . Residents can also visit the Unified Government website at: [www.wycokck.org](http://www.wycokck.org) for additional information.

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