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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### H1N1 Immunizations Needed Now for Healthy Holiday Gatherings

*Full Immunity Can Take Up to 14 days following  
Vaccination*

Watska , IL – The Ford-Iroquois Public Health Department is encouraging parents to immunize their children as soon as possible to help prevent H1N1 illnesses over the upcoming holiday season. According to Dee Ann Schippert, RN, BSN, Community and School Health Coordinator, it can take up to 14 days for the vaccination to provide full immunity. “With Thanksgiving just around the corner, we know that families will be gathering together to celebrate. We also know that when groups of people gather together for the holidays, we usually see an upswing in illness.” Mrs. Schippert said the health department is strongly recommending the H1N1 vaccination for all individuals 6 months of age and up to age 25. “We are seeing the highest incidence of disease in the 5-18 years of age category.” The health department continues, at this time, to provide vaccine to individuals falling into one of the priority groups being:

- 1) pregnant women (will need to bring a physician’s order);
- 2) caregivers of children younger than 6 months old;
- 3) any person between the ages of 6 months and 24 years of age;
- 4) any person having a chronic health problem or compromised immune system **AND is between the ages of 25 to 64;**
- 5) medical/dental providers

Doug Corbett, Public Health Administrator said the agency is working diligently to provide H1N1 clinics in various areas of Ford and Iroquois counties. “We are scheduling these clinics in places and at times we feel are most friendly to working families with school age children,” he said. Corbett said less than 10% of school age children in the bi-county have been immunized. This compares poorly with neighboring Champaign County where over 50% of the school age children have received the vaccination. “I hope parents are aware of the severity of this disease. Children and pregnant women are particularly hard hit by this virus. CDC numbers confirmed 540 deaths amongst children as of November 12<sup>th</sup>,” he said.

The following H1N1 clinics have been added to the health department schedule.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
Saturday, November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Gibson City Melvin Sibley Elementary School 902 North Church Street Gibson City, IL	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday, November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Cissna Park Fire Department 206 N. Second Street Cissna Park, IL	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Saturday, November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Ford-Iroquois Public Health Department 114 North Third Street Watseka, IL	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday, November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Piper City Community Building 64 West Peoria Street Piper City, IL	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Gilman Elementary School 215 E. Second Street Gilman, IL	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Monday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Milford Fire Department 301 S. Chicago Milford, IL	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

All H1N1 vaccinations given at health department sponsored clinics are free of charge.

For up to date information regarding H1N1 call the H1N1 flu hotline at 815-432-3850 or visit the health department web site at [www.fiphd.org](http://www.fiphd.org).

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