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ODH H1N1 CALL CENTER HOURS EXPANDED; WEB SITE UPDATED

Call center open until 9 p.m. daily; Ohioans can register to be notified of vaccine availability

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has expanded its H1N1 call center hours.

Until further notice, the ODH H1N1 toll-free information line – 1-866-800-1404 – will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday to answer questions from the public about influenza and the vaccine.

Also, ODH added an H1N1 vaccine-registration component to its Web site at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov>.

Ohioans with Internet access can logon and register to receive e-mail notifications about vaccine availability at clinics in their area. In addition to public and retail clinics listed on the ODH Web site, private medical providers will receive supplies of vaccine, so Ohioans are encouraged to check with their doctor about availability. The pre-registration feature on the Web site will also allow Ohioans to fill out the information necessary to receive a vaccine. Those individuals who pre-register will be able to bypass the registration process when going to receive a vaccine from a clinic or medical practitioner.

ODH reminds Ohioans that vaccine has arrived, and additional quantities will be coming to the state in the coming weeks and months, but that H1N1 vaccinations continue to be prioritized for high-risk groups including pregnant women; people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months; all people 6 months to 24 years; and people 25 to 64 years with chronic medical conditions.

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