



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 24, 2009

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FOLLOW ODH ON FACEBOOK/TWITTER FOR LATEST ON H1N1 INFLUENZA

Health Department also reduces H1N1 informational line hours of operation

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recently joined two social networking sites in its continuing efforts to protect and improve the health of all Ohioans. With its Facebook and Twitter accounts, ODH aims to reach new audiences, disseminate important public health information and receive followers' feedback on items that matter to them.

“Providing timely, accurate information to Ohioans is an important responsibility that the Department of Health takes seriously,” said ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D. “I am excited about receiving feedback from Ohioans through our new social media channels.”

The Department of Health also today announced that beginning Wednesday, November 25, 2009, the H1N1 Informational Hotline will reduce its hours of operation. The hotline will be accepting calls from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The hotline will be closed Thursday, November 26, 2009 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday and re-open at 8 a.m. Friday, November 27, 2009.

Computer users can access the ODH Facebook and Twitter accounts via ODH's newly revamped H1N1 influenza Web site at <http://www.flu.ohio.gov>, where they will also find vaccine-supply updates and other important pandemic and seasonal influenza information in many languages. To visit the sites directly:

Facebook:

Become an ODH Facebook fan at www.facebook.com/OHdeptofhealth for frequent updates on H1N1 and seasonal flu. Fans will also be able to learn about other public health issues facing Ohio and the important services ODH provides.

Twitter:

Ohioans following ODH on www.Twitter.com/Ohioflu will get updates on vaccine ordering, tips on flu prevention and other relevant H1N1/seasonal flu information, while www.Twitter.com/OHdeptofhealth will provide followers with information related to public health in Ohio and information regarding ODH's programs, services and events.