



For more information contact:
Toby D. Wagoner
West Virginia Division of Immunization Services
Telephone: (304) 558-6438

October 27, 2009

State Health Officer says H1N1 Vaccine Clinics will increase over the next few weeks

State Health officials reported today that H1N1 vaccine will increase throughout the state over the next several weeks and months indicating that all interested West Virginians could be vaccinated by January. State Health Officer, Dr. Cathy Slemp told reporters this week at the Bureau for Public Health's Center for Threat Preparedness in Charleston, West Virginia and explained that during the first three weeks of receiving the vaccine, local health departments have been working to get available vaccine to targeted groups in a variety of ways.

The vaccine flow will continue to increase and in time, we will see more and more people vaccinated. "We need to understand that the target group populations make up about half of all West Virginia residents, said Slemp. The amount of vaccine allocated to the state is expected to double in November and triple in December." Slemp added, "By January, we anticipate vaccinating just about anyone who still wants or needs the vaccine. That will be helpful not only to prevent disease this winter, but also to protect against any subsequent waves of this virus in communities in the months that follow. Again, it's slow now, but we expect that flow to increase with time."

Meanwhile local health departments continue to work with their partners to vaccinate individuals most at risk of H1N1 swine flu or its complications in a variety of ways as vaccine supply allows. Target populations for the first several weeks to months include pregnant women, individuals who care for children less than 6 months of age, health care workers, persons 6 months to 24 years of age, and persons 25-64 years of age with underlying medical conditions. Slemp noted there is little science to suggest it appropriate to prioritize one target group over another. Within target groups, providers are working to reach those at highest risk as much as possible. Many factors feed into local decisions about when to schedule public clinics for specific target populations. In addition to large

H1N1 Vaccine Clinics will increase over next few weeks

Page 2

October 27, 2009

public clinics, health departments are working with a limited number of providers who see large numbers of high risk individuals who may have limited access to public clinics. Local health departments are also working to vaccinate through more targeted outreach, specifically day cares, schools, universities, or clinics.

While vaccine flow projections will change over time, this provides a general trend so that residents will know where we are now and what to expect in the weeks and months to come. More information on H1N1 vaccine is available at www.wvdhhr.org or www.wvflu.org.