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For Immediate Release

The Otsego County Department of Health would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the H1N1 and Seasonal influenza vaccine availability within Otsego County.

H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

The Otsego County Department of Health received a very small quantity of H1N1 vaccine. This vaccine is being made available to healthcare workers and emergency medical service personnel. As further H1N1 vaccine becomes available; individuals in the following priority groups are recommended to receive vaccination first.

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical service workers
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25-64 years who have health conditions including chronic lung problems such as asthma, metabolic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease, and certain blood diseases; or who have a lowered immune system from medications or chronic health conditions such as HIV.

Based on information provided by the New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, the Otsego County Department of Health anticipates that vaccination of these priority groups would start the latter part of November. Once the individuals in the priority groups have had a chance to get vaccinated, vaccine will be made available to the general public.

It is important to note that not everyone will be able to get vaccinated at once, so the Otsego County Department of Health is asking everyone to please be patient and stay informed about vaccine availability. The Otsego County Department of Health does plan to hold immunization clinics to administer H1N1 vaccine; once sufficient vaccine becomes available. For further influenza clinic information you can access our website at www.otsegocounty.com or call 607-547-4230, select option 1 and then option 5 for an automated message of vaccine availability.

At this time the Otsego County Department of Health is aware that some health care providers in our county have also ordered vaccine. Check with your health care provider to see if he/she will be offering vaccine to their patients once it is more readily available to them.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

At this time, the Otsego County Department of Health does not have any seasonal influenza vaccine available. Based on information from our supplier, we anticipate that we will receive the remainder of our shipment sometime in November. It is important to note that the typical flu season can begin as early as October and last through May. During the last few influenza

seasons activity has peaked in late February. This allows for plenty of time to get your seasonal influenza vaccine. Please be patient and stay informed.

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