## **MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**

Department of Health and Human Services

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## Mayor Dan Sullivan

For immediate release: October 30, 2009 Contact: Allison Biastock 343-4619

## **Municipality Postpones H1N1 Flu Vaccine Clinic**

Less than anticipated amounts of vaccine cause the cancellation of the first scheduled public H1N1 flu clinic

The Municipality of Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services is postponing its scheduled November 7<sup>th</sup> H1N1 flu public vaccine clinic due to insufficient vaccine supply. The clinic will be rescheduled.

"Anchorage, like communities across the country, is seeing fewer doses of vaccine than anticipated at this point in the H1N1 flu immunization campaign," said Diane Ingle, Director of the Municipal Department of Health and Human Services. "We still expect enough vaccine for every Anchorage resident who wants it, it just may not be on the date they want it."

"We are pleased that the Anchorage School District is moving forward with their plans to vaccinate elementary school children; influenza hospitalization rates for the state dictate that school aged children remain a top priority."

At this time the additional MOA public clinics dates in November and December are still scheduled, but remain subject to vaccine availability. The Municipality will be regularly examining vaccine supply and will make determinations on scheduled clinics on a case by case basis. Additional clinics are being planned for the months of November, December and potentially January.

Vaccine is currently available to those in the H1N1 flu vaccine priority groups\* through some private healthcare providers and pharmacies in Anchorage, and on a walk in basis Monday through Friday from 8-11am and1-4pm at the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center.

For up to date information on H1N1 flu vaccine availability, please call the MOA Flu Hotline at 343-2525 or check our H1N1 website at www.muni.org\health

\*Due to limited vaccine availability, the State of Alaska and the Municipality of Anchorage are asking that only those who fall into the vaccine priority groups be immunized at this time. When additional vaccine arrives, it will be available to the general public. The H1N1 flu vaccine priority groups are:

- Children and young adults aged 6 months 24 years
- Pregnant women
- Caregivers and household contacts of children under 6 months
- People ages 24-64 who have underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk for complications from the flu
- Healthcare and Emergency Medical Service personnel

