



Sedgwick County...
working for you

December 4, 2009

fastFACTS

about Sedgwick County Government

H1N1 Influenza (Flu) Update

Local News:

The Health Department’s H1N1 Vaccine Clinic, located at the Wichita Mall (4095 E. Harry Street), continues to serve individuals in Sedgwick County by offering FREE H1N1 vaccines. Sedgwick County has received just over 98,000 doses of vaccine, to date.

Beginning on Thursday, December 3, the Health Department is offering vaccine to anyone who wishes to receive it. Individuals who are pregnant, under the age of 24, or who have chronic health conditions continue to be strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. Examples of chronic conditions include asthma, diabetes, heart disease (excluding high blood pressure), and any condition that weakens the immune system. The clinic is open each week Monday through Thursday from 2-7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Recently, the Health Department started school-located vaccine clinics (SLVC) at Sedgwick County Schools. The schedule of clinics was developed from a lottery drawing of participating schools. Since beginning SLVCs, the Health department has held clinics for 22 schools and has 62 SLVCs scheduled for December. Upcoming school-located vaccine clinics can be found on the calendar located at www.sedgwickcounty.org. Click on “click here for up-to-date H1N1 information for Sedgwick County”.

Private providers who have registered to receive vaccine either as direct ship-to-sites or to pick up vaccine from the Health Department have begun to receive vaccine. Several private providers in Sedgwick County are currently offering vaccine to patients and non-patients.

During the past four weeks, the Health Department has offered vaccine through mobile clinics. These clinics administer vaccine to individuals in the target groups and offer a convenient location for those who may not be able to come to the E. Harry clinic. Below is a breakdown of the mobile clinics and the number of vaccinations given:

Park City:	66
Valley Center:	53
Mulvane:	160
Bentley:	28
Clearwater:	47
Haysville:	97
Derby:	58
Andale:	25
Colwich:	7
Kechi:	2

Upcoming mobile clinics are also located on the county Web site. Click on “click here for up-to-date H1N1 information for Sedgwick County”.

Surveillance Update - For the week ending November 21, only one of 53 Sedgwick County schools reported absenteeism greater than 10 percent. The highest absentee rate was 16.7 percent and the lowest was zero percent. There were no school absenteeism reports last week due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Sedgwick County continues to answer H1N1 questions through e-mails at flu@sedgwick.gov and the call center, 316-660-5558.



Sedgwick County...
working for you

H1N1 Influenza (Flu) Update - Continued

State News:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has created a Web site where public clinic providers can register their H1N1 vaccination clinics. Clinics can be located at <http://www.dhe.state.ks.us/appnet/h1n1vaccine/>.

Surveillance Update - KDHE noted that over the past four weeks there has been a 26 percent average decline in influenza-like illness (ILI) activity each week; however, in some parts of the state, particularly the southeast and northwest, ILI levels are still twice as high as would be expected at this time of year. As of the week ending November 21, there have been a total of 19 deaths, in Kansas, due to pandemic 2009 H1N1 influenza A virus. Fifteen of these deaths have occurred among persons with underlying health conditions thus increasing their risk of serious complications from influenza. Statewide, the number of hospital admissions for ILI has remained relatively unchanged. Outpatient visits to clinics in the state surveillance network, however, has decreased steadily from its highest point during the week of October 24. Despite this downward trend, the percentage of ILI visits continues to remain above levels expected during a normal influenza season. School absenteeism due to ILI also continues to decrease at a steady rate. The southeast region of the state continues to have the highest percentage of schools reporting greater than 10 percent absenteeism.

RESOURCES:

Visit the Sedgwick County Web site at www.sedgwickcounty.org for a copy of various fact sheets as well as Hand Washing Flyers.

For more information, the H1N1 call center at (316) 660-5558 or e-mail flu@sedgwick.gov

National News:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced November 12 that it had changed the method for estimating the number of H1N1 cases and deaths. This caused the overall number of estimated cases to triple seemingly overnight. The initial numbers were believed to be significantly underestimated. The new method for estimating cases is believed to give public health officials a better picture of the H1N1 outbreak.

On November 16, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a fifth vaccine for H1N1 influenza. The vaccine is manufactured by ID Biomedical Corp. from Quebec, Canada (owned by GlaxoSmithKline PLC). The new vaccine will be made using the same processes as the four other approved H1N1 vaccines. The addition of this fifth vaccine is not expected to make any substantial changes in the national vaccine supply.

There is a new Google application that assists users in locating flu vaccine clinics. This application is a product of a partnership between Google and the American Lung Association. To locate a clinic near you, visit www.google.com/flushot.

Tips to Protect Yourself and Others from the H1N1 Flu:

- Cover your cough and sneeze.
- Wash your hands.
- Keep living and work areas clean.
- If you are sick, stay home. Do not get in close contact with those who are ill.

Symptoms to Watch For:

- Fever greater than 100 degrees
- Body aches
- Coughing
- Sore throat
- Respiratory congestion