

## Important Announcement from the Franklin County Board of Health Regarding H1N1 Vaccinations

October 27, 2009

Dear Parent:

The Franklin County Board of Health has determined that it is necessary to delay the start of the school located H1N1 vaccination clinics. It was our sincere hope that vaccine would be readily available in the community at the time we planned to start the clinics the beginning of November. That is not the case. The shipment of H1N1 vaccinations from the manufacturers has slowed and we do not have the available supply to take care of all of the children in all of the schools at this time.

**We had to make the difficult decision to delay the start of the school located clinics.** Instead we had to break the high risk groups down into additional categories as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (who provides guidance to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). To date, we have been vaccinating pregnant women, caregivers of children under 6 months and health care providers. Next week we will expand to all young children between 6 months and 4 years of age. **We will then expand the clinics to include children between 5 years of age and 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions.** These clinics will be held throughout November in locations around the county and will NOT be held at the schools.

**This was a Franklin County Board of Health decision based on vaccine availability and finding the best way to serve the highest number of people with the supplies we have. This was not a school district decision.** The Franklin County Board of Health would like to thank the school districts for their willingness to let us use their facilities and for their assistance with communicating with you.

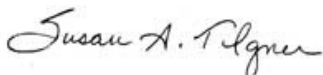
We appreciate you completing the RSVP form that the schools sent home for the Franklin County Board of Health. Please understand that this was a planning tool to help us estimate how much vaccine we would need and how many staff we would need to run the clinics. It was not intended as a guarantee for vaccination.

It is our hope that additional supplies of vaccine will continue to arrive in our community. School located clinics will still be planned in the future as long as the need exists and vaccine becomes available. In the meantime, you may be able to find it through other providers (such as health care providers and mass retail pharmacies) in the near future. We encourage you to watch [www.columbuspandemicflu.org](http://www.columbuspandemicflu.org) for clinic details as they are announced. You can also call 2-1-1.

We clearly understand your concern for your children and your strong desire to get them vaccinated against H1N1. Please know the public health system is working as diligently and as quickly as possible to do that. Our goal is to vaccinate everyone in a high risk category as quickly as we can but we simply do not have the supplies and ability to do that at this time. We encourage you to continue to urge your children to cover their cough, wash their hands and most importantly keep them home when they are sick. These simple steps will help slow the spread of H1N1 in the community. Finally, you may be hearing that other counties have been able to start school located clinics; they simply have a smaller population to serve which requires less vaccine.

We thank you in advance your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Tilgner,  
Franklin County Health Commissioner

Franklin County



Board of Health