

## *News Release*

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### **H1N1 Vaccination, Round Two**

The Buchanan County Public Health Department reminds residents that children ages 6 months through 9 years are recommended to receive 2 doses of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that the two doses of the vaccine be separated by at least 28 days (4 weeks); that means for many children vaccinated by the Buchanan County Public Health Department, it is time to receive their second dose.

“The first dose of the vaccine basically ‘primes’ the child’s immune system to receive the second dose,” said Amy Marlow, Public Health Director “The second dose is the one that provides full protection against the H1N1 virus for children ages 6 months through 9 years. Starting December 11<sup>th</sup>, our department will begin scheduling the second doses for those who need them, along with anyone in the target group.”

In Buchanan County, the H1N1 vaccine remains targeted to those at highest risk of becoming ill and developing complications from the virus. These groups include pregnant women and anyone living in their household; persons who live with or provide care for infants less than 6 months of age such as parents, siblings, and day care providers; health care and emergency services personnel who have direct contact with patients and infectious materials; persons age 6 months to 24 years of age; and persons age 25-64 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications, such as asthma and diabetes. Those not in the priority group should continue to watch newspapers and the Buchanan County Health Center websites for updates as to when the vaccine may become available to everyone.

Influenza infections can make people more likely to develop bacterial pneumonia. Pneumonia infections are a serious complication of seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza infections and can cause death. There is a vaccine to protect high-risk individuals against serious pneumococcal disease. The vaccine is safe and effective. Most people need a single dose of the pneumococcal vaccine in a lifetime. This vaccine is recommended for people who are 65 years of age and older; residents of nursing homes or long-term care facilities; people 2 years of age and older with a weakened immune system; and people 2 years of age and older who have a chronic illness, such as lung disease or diabetes.

A statewide toll-free hotline has been established for public questions about seasonal and H1N1 influenza at 1-800-447-1985. More information can also be found at [www.idph.state.ia.us](http://www.idph.state.ia.us). To make an appointment with the Buchanan County Public Health Department, call 319-332-0860 or e-mail us at [publichealth@bchealth.info](mailto:publichealth@bchealth.info) on December 11<sup>th</sup> or thereafter.

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