



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

Ted Strickland, Governor

2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 10, 2009

Contact: Ohio Joint Information Center

Phone: (614) 799-6480

JIC ISSUES CORRECTION TO TRADITIONAL FLU VACCINE RELEASE

COLUMBUS – The State of Ohio Joint Information Center has issued a correction to a draft news release mistakenly released earlier today.

The release stated, in part, “seasonal flu vaccine is available at most private physicians, local health departments, and many retail pharmacy chains.”

In fact, seasonal flu vaccine may be available in limited supplies, and the Ohio Department of Health urges people to check with their providers to see if seasonal flu vaccine is available for them.

Editor’s note: Please see corrected release below.

###

OHIO’S TRADITIONAL FLU SEASON JUST AROUND THE CORNER

H1N1 virus not the only flu expected to circulate this year

COLUMBUS – While pandemic H1N1 flu has had an unusually strong impact on teenagers and young adults, those at highest risk for complications from seasonal flu – including young children, pregnant women, people with chronic medical conditions and the elderly – should also remember the importance of protecting themselves against seasonal influenza.

Most of the flu circulating now is H1N1; however, seasonal flu viruses may become more prominent as the traditional flu season in Ohio – typically November to mid-March – approaches.

Pneumonia is the most common complication associated with flu and causes more than 3,000 deaths annually in Ohio, placing flu and pneumonia among the top 10 causes of death in the state. Nationwide, influenza and its complications cause some 36,000 deaths and 200,000 hospitalizations annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Limited supplies of H1N1 vaccine are being prioritized to high-risk populations including health care workers and EMS workers who provide direct patient care; pregnant women; people who live with or care for children

younger than 6 months; all people 6 months to 24 years; and people 25 to 64 years with chronic health conditions such as diabetes or asthma.

No such restrictions are in place for seasonal flu and the Ohio Department of Health encourages all people – especially high-risk populations including children 6 to 23 months, pregnant women, people with chronic medical conditions and the elderly – to seek a seasonal flu vaccine if it is available.