



LaPorte County Health Department

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Charles Janovsky, M.D., Health Officer
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PRESS RELEASE

State Directing Shipments of Vaccines to Health Departments

LaPorte County, IN (October 13, 2009) - The LaPorte County Health Department has received an initial shipment of vaccine which contains significantly fewer doses than had been anticipated. Additional doses of both live and attenuated H1N1 vaccine will be shipped weekly. This first supply will go to our county hospitals, pregnant women and emergency health workers; the Health Department's first school-based clinic for students will be scheduled this week.

Paul Trost, Administrator of the LaPorte County Health Department, said, "The state is currently directing these shipments to all local health departments based on population. Individual health departments do not have the authority to order vaccine at this time; it is a state function until supplies increase."

"However," Trost continued, "We are receiving a small amount of vaccine this week, and we will be vaccinating healthcare workers and emergency medical service personnel with this initial shipment. We will release new information as soon as it becomes available and keep the public informed."

Dr. Charles Janovsky, Health Officer of the LaPorte County Health Department, said, "There is widespread flu activity across the country at this time. Here in LaPorte County, we continue to monitor school absenteeism and work closely with the medical community to monitor any rise in illness. We urge our residents to continue to practice prevention measures... cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue, into an elbow or down the inside of your shirt; wash your hands frequently—at least every 2 hours; and don't share food or eating/drinking utensils. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way. And please...stay home if you get sick. The CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them for at least 48 hours after you no longer have a fever...without taking Tylenol or another fever-reducing medication."

When additional vaccine doses become available, the Health Department will make that information available through local radio stations, local access television stations, and local newspapers as well as their website—www.laportecounty.org.

Questions about the H1N1 vaccine should be directed to the LaPorte County Health Department at 219/326-6808 X2200 or by email to H1N1@laportecounty.org. Visit the website at www.laportecounty.org and click on "current local flu information" just beneath the waving flag.

Questions about the content of this press release should be directed to the LaPorte County Health Department using above contact information.. Technical questions about the press release (PDF) received via email should be directed to JK Enterprises at jkostielney@csinet.net.