

## Spokane Regional Health District Swine Flu Update

The H1N1 Swine Flu vaccine supply is anticipated to improve in the following weeks, allowing the Spokane Regional Health District to reschedule several clinics that had been postponed.

The rescheduled clinics are as follows:

- \* December 8, East Central Community Center, 11:00 am – 6:00 pm
- \* December 10, Northeast Community Center, 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

These rescheduled clinics will be offered as walk-in only. Both versions (nasal spray and injectable) of the H1N1 vaccine may not be available at all clinics, therefore, please call the Health District's H1N1 hotline 324-1495 or visit their website [www.srhd.org](http://www.srhd.org) in advance of the clinics.

The Health District is offering the free vaccinations for people in the CDC's H1N1 prioritized vaccination groups, which include:

- \* Pregnant women, because they are at higher risk of complications from influenza;
- \* Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age, because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications, and cannot be vaccinated;
- \* Health care and emergency medical services personnel who provide direct patient care, to prevent illness and transmission to patients.
- \* All people 6 months to 24 years of age, because the majority of cases have occurred in this age group, and because of the increased likelihood of disease spread in schools and childcare settings; and
- \* People 25 to 64 years of age who have underlying health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from flu.

The Spokane Regional Health District has also been distributing H1N1 vaccine to area healthcare providers, hospitals, and other venues where priority groups can receive the vaccination. Please contact your healthcare provider to see if the H1N1 vaccine is available at your primary healthcare office. Once efforts have been made to vaccinate prioritized groups, the vaccine may become available to everyone who would like to protect themselves through vaccination.