



WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

Williamson County & Cities Health District Reports first H1N1 Flu Death.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2009 (Williamson County) –

The Williamson County & Cities Health District (WCCHD) reports the first death in Williamson County due to H1N1 Influenza. A hospitalized female in her early thirties died in late October. WCCHD receives weekly reports of influenza and influenza-like illnesses from hospitals, clinics, and schools. Since September 1, 2009, there have been nine Williamson County residents admitted to the hospital with confirmed H1N1 influenza. This is the first H1N1 related death reported in Williamson County in 2009.

Dr. Chip Riggins, Williamson County Health Authority urges persons in priority groups to check with their usual health care or vaccine provider about H1N1 vaccine availability. Current priority groups are:

- Pregnant women
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age
- Children 5 years through 18 years of age with high-risk health conditions
- Health care workers who provide direct patient care
- Close contacts of those 6 months or younger

The supply of H1N1 vaccine continues to be limited, but it is arriving in greater quantities each week. Williamson County vaccine providers ordered sufficient quantities of vaccine, but it is arriving slowly. This week 10,000 doses arrived and to date approximately 25,000 doses have been delivered to healthcare providers across Williamson County. We expect that H1N1 vaccine will continue to arrive through January this year. “The vaccine protection is not only good for you, but it helps protect others around you,” Riggins said.

Although absenteeism in schools and workplaces has dropped significantly from the peak in early September, H1N1 is still here. As this is the time when seasonal flu cases begin to appear, WCCHD continues to encourage everyone to take these measures to prevent the spread of flu:

- Get H1N1 vaccine as soon as available
- Stay home if you are sick and keep your children home if they are sick
- Practice frequent hand washing and cover your cough

To learn more about influenza, track Williamson County Statistics or inquire about WCCHD immunization clinic hours or other available programs visit www.wcchd.org.