



WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Don't Forget the Second Dose for Children!

January 27, 2010 (Williamson County) –

Local providers, pharmacies, schools and your public health department continue to immunize against H1N1 flu, but remember if your child is under the age of ten, they need to get a second dose at least four weeks after the first dose. The second dose can be easily forgotten and the age can be confusing because the CDC recommendation for seasonal flu vaccine is that children under the age of nine should get 2 doses separated by 4 weeks if it is the first time the child is receiving influenza vaccine.

Seasonal influenza activity usually increases during the months of January and February; thus, increased influenza activity from 2009 H1N1 viruses, seasonal influenza viruses, or both might occur in the remainder of this influenza season. In all three 20th century influenza pandemics (1918, 1957, and 1968), multiple waves of influenza activity were observed.

The 2009 H1N1 virus is likely to continue to circulate through the winter months, resulting in more cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Although limited supplies of influenza A (H1N1) 2009 vaccine had previously necessitated prioritizing vaccination among certain high risk groups, approximately 130 million doses have now been shipped and we can now encourage vaccination of all persons aged over 6 months of age.

There will be an H1N1 flu vaccination clinic at the Jarrell Fire Station on Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 10am-2pm. It is open to the public. Minors must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or the adult accompanying them must have written permission from the parent to sign for the child.

For general information on immunization requirements go to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/default.shtm>. To learn more about WCCHD immunization clinic hours or other available programs visit *your public health department* at www.wcchd.org.