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Pharmacies throughout West Virginia Are Receiving H1N1 Vaccine

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources officials announce H1N1 vaccine is now available at many independent and chain pharmacies across the state.

State Health Officer Dr. Cathy Slemp, who is leading the fight against H1N1 in West Virginia said, "We understand the importance of making the H1N1 vaccine available in a variety of settings. Having the vaccine available at local pharmacies is a convenient location where people can get vaccinated."

Residents searching for local H1N1 vaccination may search the *Flu Clinic Locator* online at www.wvflu.org for available clinics or by calling their local health department, pharmacy or medical provider.

A total of 626,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine has been distributed to West Virginia's H1N1 enrolled providers since the vaccination campaign began last October. Disease levels have declined over the last several weeks across the country and in West Virginia, but Dr. Slemp says it is still important to get vaccinated. "Flu is unpredictable. We will likely see the number of flu cases increase in the weeks and months to come, as seasonal flu strains will soon be in the mix." Slemp added, "Individuals who have not been vaccinated for H1N1 flu and seasonal flu should consider doing so soon for protection by the time flu peaks in West Virginia, which is generally February through March." Slemp also added that all major medical associations are recommending both seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine for protection this season.

West Virginia has reported 20 deaths and 895 hospitalizations linked to H1N1 since September 2009. For more information about H1N1 flu or the vaccine, go online to www.wvflu.org.