



MEDIA RELEASE

Lincoln County Health and Human Services

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LINCOLN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY DELAY IN INJECTABLE SEASONAL FLU IMMUNIZATION SHIPMENTS

Lincoln County Public Health Officer, Dr. David Long reports that our Public Health Department has given over 1600 Seasonal Flu immunizations to date. We expect to use all of our stock of injectable vaccine at the community clinic this morning. The community has certainly gotten the message about flu protection.

Our Seasonal Flu vaccine distributor has notified Public Health that there will be a delay in shipping the remainder of our injectable vaccine order. We are assured that we will receive our entire order within the next several weeks. These delays are being seen throughout the nation. Public Health is working very closely with the state immunization program and our suppliers. There is still seasonal flu mist available through Public Health Drop in Clinics: Monday through Friday from 1PM to 6PM. Flu Mist is appropriate for those between the ages of 2 years to 49 years, who are not pregnant and have no chronic health issues. It is a live attenuated virus.

Paula Sampson, Director of Health and Human Services states that "there is not a permanent shortage of seasonal flu vaccine." In fact, it is reported that 115 million additional doses were to be produced nationwide.

Public Health Communicable disease manager, Debbie Spicer RN states that, "we will reschedule our previously planned seasonal flu clinics as needed". For the most current local Public Health Flu information including the scheduled seasonal flu clinics go to: www.lincolncountyhealth.com

Dr. David Long states "The illness we are seeing now is H1N1 influenza. We have not seen the seasonal flu yet because it usually peaks in February and March. I recommend you get your seasonal flu shot before the holidays. In addition to vaccination, prevention is the key. Remember your common sense rules. Eat healthy, get plenty of sleep, wash your hands, cover your cough and sneezes, and stay home if you are ill. If you do get the flu, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever has passed without using fever reducing medications."

For any questions please go to the State website: www.flu.oregon.gov

For more information contact Gretchen Gantz 541-265-4190

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www.lincolncountyhealth.com