



**Snohomish County**

**Executive Office**

Aaron Reardon, County Executive

Cascade Valley Hospital

Community Health  
Centers of  
Snohomish County

Emergency Services  
Coordinating Agency

The Everett Clinic

Everett Office of  
Emergency Management

Monroe Office of  
Emergency Management

Premera Blue Cross

Providence Regional  
Medical Center Everett

Puget Sound  
Family Physicians

Snohomish County  
Department of  
Emergency Management

Snohomish County  
Public School Districts

Snohomish  
Health District

Stevens Hospital

Swedish Visiting  
Nurses Service

Tulalip Health Services

Tulalip Tribal Office of  
Emergency Management

Valley General Hospital

## Media Advisory – Oct. 9, 2009

Contact: 425-388-3608

### H1N1 vaccine arrives in Snohomish Co.

*Emergency declaration allows for quicker dispersal of vaccine*

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash. – First responders in Snohomish County now can ensure the H1N1 vaccine is distributed more quickly thanks to an emergency declaration that will allow medics to administer vaccinations in addition to doctors, nurses and other medical staff.

The Snohomish Health District's health officer and director made the request of the Snohomish County Executive Thursday evening. In it, Dr. Gary Goldbaum indicated the need to increase the number of medical personnel able to distribute H1N1 vaccine, which began arriving in Snohomish County Friday afternoon.

Health care workers and first responders such as law enforcement and fire fighters were to begin receiving vaccinations this weekend and through next week.

Larger clinics for people in recommended priority groups are being coordinated throughout Snohomish County by various hospitals and medical clinics at offsite locations. Eight clinics are scheduled for Oct. 31, and more in subsequent weeks as needed.

"The most effective strategy to protect all of our citizens is to rapidly vaccinate as much of the population as possible," Dr. Goldbaum said. "Some EMS workers are qualified and willing to administer vaccine, but can do so only if an emergency is declared."

County Executive Aaron Reardon signed the declaration so that plans already in place for vaccination distribution could move forward as quickly as possible.

"We responded to the Snohomish Health District's request and the need to ensure our population remains safe and healthy," Reardon said. "Allowing additional medical personnel to distribute vaccine frees up resources, protects our families and maintains a sense of normalcy when most needed."

The Snohomish Health District received several hundred doses Friday of the intranasal FluMist and began vaccinating staff members immediately. Health district personnel will be integral in helping facilitate larger public clinics beginning

Oct. 31. The Everett Clinic also received a box of FluMist and began distributing it to staff. As many as 7,200 doses of FluMist are expected in coming days.

“H1N1 influenza virus is already present in Snohomish County,” Dr. Goldbaum said. “We need to administer the vaccine over the next week to as many first responders as possible.”

The local public health agency expects larger shipments of injectable H1N1 vaccine by mid-October. It is estimated that about 60,000 doses will arrive beginning the week of Oct. 18 with another 40,000 possible doses arriving in subsequent weeks. Additional shipments will follow as available. The nationwide distribution of vaccine is overseen by the federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and some delays are expected.

Vaccinations initially will be offered to recommended priority groups, which include:

- Health-care workers and first responders;
- Pregnant women;
- Caregivers of children under six-months old;
- All people ages six months to 24 years;
- Teachers and professional childcare providers;
- People ages 25 to 64 with chronic medical conditions.

As more doses become available in Snohomish County, people outside the recommended priority groups will be able to receive the vaccine through health-care providers, including pharmacies.

Snohomish County’s goal is to have at least 100,000 county residents vaccinated by Thanksgiving. In the meantime, residents should continue to take precautions to stop the spread of the disease, including receiving a seasonal flu shot.

Seasonal influenza affects people over age 65 more severely than younger people. H1N1 flu spreads quickly among younger people ages 6 months to 24 years and more severely affects people under age 65. Although deaths can occur from both types of flu, most people recover within a week with no complications.

For more information on flu vaccine availability, call 425-339-8627 or go to [www.snocoflu.com](http://www.snocoflu.com).

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