



**Snohomish County**

**Executive Office**

Aaron Reardon, County Executive

Cascade Valley Hospital

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Emergency Services  
Coordinating Agency

The Everett Clinic

Everett Office of  
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Emergency Management

Premera Blue Cross

Providence Regional  
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Puget Sound  
Family Physicians

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Snohomish County  
Public School Districts

Snohomish  
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Tulalip Health Services

Tulalip Tribal Office of  
Emergency Management

Valley General Hospital

**Media Advisory – Sept. 29, 2009**

Contact: 425-388-3608

## **H1N1 vaccine expected to arrive mid-October**

### *Planning underway for clinics throughout Snohomish County*

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash. – Local health officials expect an initial, small supply of H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine to arrive in Snohomish County within three weeks. The first shipment of up to 6,000 doses is designated to immunize health care workers and frontline emergency workers. Vaccine in subsequent shipments will be offered to people who are most at risk of complications from H1N1 illness.

Dr. Gary Goldbaum, health officer and director of the Snohomish Health District, said the county expects to receive up to 130,000 additional doses of H1N1 vaccine before the end of November. The nationwide distribution of vaccine is overseen by the federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Locally, it will be distributed through area pharmacies, doctors' offices, and at least a dozen special mass immunization clinics in cities throughout the county.

There will be enough vaccine for everyone, but supplies will be limited at first. CDC recommends the H1N1 vaccine for:

- Health care & emergency services workers;
- Pregnant women;
- Caregivers & household contacts of children younger than six months;
- People age six months to 24 years;
- People age 25 to 64 years with health conditions that put them at higher risk of complications from the flu.

“The entire health care community has stepped up and pulled together to plan this tremendous effort,” said Dr. Goldbaum. “Hospitals, clinics, private providers, pharmacies, a health insurance company, school districts, tribes—all have invested many hours and much energy into figuring out with local

public health how to deliver this unprecedented volume of vaccine quickly into the arms of the people who need it the most.”

Dr. Goldbaum said that the goal is to vaccinate 100,000 county residents by Thanksgiving. He stressed that vaccination is only one of several important strategies to cut down on the spread of disease.

“Land that sneeze in your sleeve, cover your coughs, wash your hands frequently, and stay home if you are sick,” he said. “Go get the seasonal flu shot now – there is plenty of seasonal flu vaccine available in the community.”

Seasonal influenza strikes the elder population more severely than other age groups. H1N1 flu sickens younger people age 6 months to 24 years. Some deaths occur every year from both types of flu, but most people recover within a week with no complications.

Find more information about seasonal and H1N1 flu at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov), and [www.snocoflu.com](http://www.snocoflu.com).

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