

FOR RELEASE in both newspapers next week

Contact: Eileen Filbert, RN, Adm.

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It appears that to date 17% of the county's population has received a H1N1 vaccination from a provider within the county. Kansas Department of Health and Environment figures show 20% of the state's population has received this protection. It is assumed that county residents working outside Jefferson county may have taken advantage of obtaining this vaccination from sources not located within the county.

The latest disease report released by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, for the week of February 20, 2010, shows less influenza and pneumonia disease being reported at this time of the year than most years. However, of concern is the increasing number of children 5 years of age and younger being hospitalized for respiratory illness. The number of this population hospitalized for respiratory illness has increased to 21% of Kansas hospitalizations over the last few weeks. Additionally, the state continues to experience the most loss of life from respiratory illness in those over 65 years of age, with one child under 18 years of age, along with three adults under 65 who lost their lives during the period of that report.

Those county medical providers who have made the H1N1 vaccination available to their clients will continue to provide the vaccine to anyone not yet immunized who requests such based on each individual's medical history and the availability of the vaccine. The vaccine will remain free and available through the Health Department each Tuesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. as long as vaccine is available. To date no federal or state official has lifted the declaration of H1N1 disease threat.