

The Jefferson County Health Department reminds all residents that vaccination against the new virus, H1N1, is available to all county residents regardless of age or medical condition. Now is the time to obtain this FREE vaccine through the Health Department or a participating county Medical Clinic.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment noted an increase in number of persons seeking medical care for respiratory like illness in the first Epidemiology report of 2010. The peak of influenza illness has not yet passed for this winter, and normally will not pass until the first part of March, thus obtaining this vaccination can prevent serious and life threatening illness.

It was only two weeks ago that the death of a healthy 52 year old male from H1N1 was reported in Kansas, thus the threat of influenza, H1N1 and pneumonia remains of real risk to all persons yet unprotected to seasonal influenza or H1N1.

The Health Department will provide the free H1N1 vaccinations to anyone requesting such during every Tuesday and Friday clinic at that office, as well as at each Community Health Clinic regularly scheduled and sponsored by the Department monthly in towns throughout the county, and the Free Adult Health Clinic held the last Wednesday afternoon at the Lakeside Village Office.

Persons yet unprotected can also visit with their health care provider to learn more about the disease and the value of obtaining that protection. The FW Huston Medical Center Clinic, McLouth Medical Clinic, and Valley Falls Medical Clinic have H1N1 vaccine available.

The H1N1 vaccine has been made the same way that all Seasonal Influenza vaccine is produced, and has had even more stringent testing for a longer period of time than the seasonal vaccine. All released vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective. The H1N1 vaccine has been easily tolerated by humans of all ages since its testing began in June of 2009.

Influenza is "One Bad Bug". Be sure you have done all you can to protect your health and that of your family. The influenza season has not yet passed us by, and spring break travel brought about the start of H1N1 disease and death just one year ago. We do not have sufficient residents of the county protected from this disease to prevent its continued circulation and impact on the lives of those living here!

H1N1 vaccine is available and it has been made available through the federal tax dollars paid by US citizens, claim your protection—get your vaccination!